

HOME NEWS

Newspaper merger approval took staffs by surprise

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

The announcement of the closing of the *Evening News* and its merger with the *Evening Standard* was made yesterday after the Government said it had no objection. It came as a surprise to unions and staff working on the two newspapers.

Lord Matthews, chairman of Express Newspapers, which owns the *Evening Standard*, confessed surprise that he had not been given prior warning by the Department of Trade before it announced that a merger would not be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Details of the agreement with Associated Newspapers Group, which owns the *Evening News*, were given to local union officials who were said by Lord Matthews to be "not very happy".

The *Evening News* is due to cease publication at the end of the month, and union officials were warned last night by the newspaper's executives that if there was any interruption in publication before the planned closure date, redundancy payments could be affected.

A new-style *Evening Standard* with a print run of between 600,000 and 700,000 will go on sale the day after the closure of its rival which would have celebrated its centenary next year. Lord Matthews expressed the hope that the new newspaper would contain the best features of both publications.

Mr Charles Wintour, who has been editor of the *Evening Standard* for most of the past 20 years, will step down and Express Newspapers has resisted pressure from Associated Newspapers that Mr Louis Kirby, editor of the *Evening News*, should be editor of the new newspaper.

The financial arrangements surrounding the deal were not revealed in detail by Lord Matthews, but it is understood that Associated has paid more than £1m for half the assets of the *Evening Standard* Company.

Lord Matthews said that since the early spring there had been a dramatic fall in the amount of advertisements carried by the newspapers. "We were both faced with the possibility that either one could have to go," he said.

"I believe that Fleet Street will see further casualties unless there is a very big change in thinking and the use of all technologies that are available to keep prices at a level to enable circulation to grow instead of fall," he added.

Restrictive practices by the trade unions had been a big factor in the crisis now facing Fleet Street, Lord Matthews said, but he believed that present agreements with printing workers on the *Evening Standard* would enable a much larger print run to be achieved.

Despite selling Associated, a half stake in the *Evening Standard*, Lord Matthews will have final control with a casting vote on all important issues.

Leading article, page 15



Photograph by John Manning
Lord Matthews, chairman of Express Newspapers, with yesterday's copies of the "Evening Standard" and the doomed "Evening News".

Sadness and resignation among Northcliffe House men

By Richard Ford

Outside Northcliffe House, where the *Evening News* is published, the unofficial half-board told the story to passers-by with the words "The End is Nigh".

It summed up the sadness felt by the employees who will lose their jobs when the newspaper closes at the end of the month, and reflects the feelings they have lived with for many years.

For rumour and gossip about the future of London's largest selling newspaper has been constant among those who work in Fleet Street. Although many of the staff had been resigned to the paper's closure one day or other, they were stunned at the speed with which the end has come.

They were sad that a newspaper about to celebrate its centenary is to die, and sad, too, that a paper renowned for

its friendliness and happy atmosphere has finally succumbed to the financial pressures of considerable losses. Those are estimated at £7m in the 11 months of the financial year that ended on September 30.

But amid the sadness and resignation was much bitterness at the way the issue had been handled by the management, whose staff first knew of the merger proposals when a Department of Trade official telephoned them with the information.

About fifty journalists from the building to Carmelite House, now by commanding to see Mr E. Wintour, managing director of Harsworth Publications, to find out what was going on. He was prepared to see a deputation of 10 who were told about the closure.

Mr Ron Burdett, father of the

chapel (office branch) of the National Union of Journalists, and an employee on the *Evening News* for 16 years, said: "It was not a total surprise as we have lived through so many crises but when it finally came it was naturally a shock."

"Our feelings are of anxiety and chagrin but the *Evening News* is finished."

Among other journalists there was anger at the way the management had kept them in the dark about the decisions affecting their future. Mr David Melton said: "We've been struck by the suddenness and stunned by the speed of the happenings. But there is anger at the management did not see fit to keep us properly informed about what was going on."

Mr Melton said the chapel thought the one of the reasons why most of the journalists on the *Evening News* were to be made redundant was that they were on contracts with three months' notice, while, at the *Evening Standard*, there was a year's notice which made redundancy much cheaper at the *Evening News*.

Mr Guy Simpson, deputy picture editor, said that many people had probably believed that the paper would close some day, but that it was still sad when the decision was finally made, and sad because it meant less variety for the public.

Mr Derek Keen, father of the chapel for the Sogat Outside Branch at the paper, which has 370 members, summed up the feeling of his men: "I am not surprised, but of course we are concerned. For me and for many others it was not a question of if, but a question of when."

Another man who has worked there for 34 years was close to

tears as he walked from the building saying that, of course, the workers were the last to know "it has not sunk in yet just what this all means."

Across Fleet Street at the *Evening Standard*, there was sympathy for fellow workers who had made redundant, and as house "ministers" they are trying to help the new owners get used to life without the *Evening News*.

One worker said: "We are all in the same bloody boat and, without a doubt, they could close us tomorrow and it is healthy to have opposition."

Among other Fleet Street workers there was speculation as to whether, with the *Evening News* gone by the end of the month, another newspaper magnate would start a "down-market" popular evening paper as a rival.

Social worker jailed over girl of 13

Julian McLean-Thorne, aged 26, a social worker on parole from prison, who smoked cannabis with a girl of 13 and then had sexual intercourse with her, was jailed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for five years. He also had his parole licence revoked.

The offences were said to have taken place at a youth hostel run by the London Borough of Hackney, where Mr McLean-Thorne was employed.

Judge Abdela, QC, said he hoped the case would be a spur to the council as to the control it exercised at the hostel in Willow Road, Tottenham, and at another one involved in the case in The Avenue, Tottenham.

He said: "One wonders who it is who appoints the staff and clothes them with responsibility. Very, very careful investigation should be made into the backgrounds of people appointed as social workers at such hostels."

Mr McLean-Thorne admitted having unlawful sexual intercourse with the girl on March 18 this year. He also admitted two charges of supplying cannabis, and one of possessing the drug. He also admitted possessing a .22 air rifle while he was a person who had been given a five-year prison sentence.

Mr Michael Addison, for the prosecution, said Mr McLean-Thorne took a 14-year-old boy, a resident at the Willow Road

hostel, and the two girls who were visiting him, to the other youth hostel at The Avenue.

There they smoked cannabis, which he provided. When the girl of 13 became sick, he told the others to go, locked the door, and had sexual intercourse with her.

Det Sergeant Charles Sargeant said Mr McLean-Thorne had been in court seven times since 1971. His convictions included four for burglary.

At the Central Criminal Court in 1978 he was jailed for five years for three robbery offences and for carrying a firearm of imitation firearm with intent to commit an offence. He was granted parole on August 29, 1979.

Mr Weighell alleges there is a plot to oust him

By Michael Horsfall

Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaysmen, said: "Last night that he was the victim of a plot to oust him from a TUC committee and that an understanding between his union and the transport workers' union was now suspect."

He was speaking after an ultimatum to Mr Mostyn Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, passed its deadline with a meeting that had been called for talking place.

At the centre of the dispute was the decision last week to replace Mr Weighell as chairman of the TUC's transport committee with Mr Lawrence Smith, national officer of the transport union.

Last night, the railwaymen's leader said that that decision breached long-standing TUC practice and that a firm understanding between the rail union and the transport workers had been tossed aside.

He said: "He would contest the chairmanship of the committee."

Mr Barritt said that a copy of Mr Anderson's speech would be supplied to every Labour and Liberal MP in the North-west.

He said: "I am also going to write to the Association of Chief Police Officers to ascertain whether the extraordinary right-wing anti-democratic views that were expressed by Mr Anderson met with their support and approval."

Mr Barritt told *The Times* that he had been supplied with a full text of Mr Anderson's speech by a journalist.

Miss Joan Lester, Labour

MPs are asked to question chief constable's speech

From John Charters
Manchester

Mr Colin Barritt, secretary of the North West Regional Council of the TUC, said yesterday that he was asking all Labour and Liberal MPs in the north-west to raise in Parliament what he called a political speech by Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, "with a view to his being made to account for his actions".

A speech made by Mr Anderson, head of the largest police force outside London, on Friday evening to the Animal Rescue Organization at Wittemere, attacked what he called "a race relations industry". That, he said, had been justified by anti-establishment factors.

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MP for Eton and Slough, and chairman of the Labour Party race relations subcommittee, denounced Mr Anderson's remarks as "misguided and dangerous". The Herald Society of Socialist Lawyers called for the removal of Mr Anderson from office.

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NUJ intimidating 'Times' staff seeking to resign from high over strike, IOJ claims

By Alan Osman

Intimidation was being used to encourage staff at The Times to withdraw from their union. John S. recent strike of the newspaper's staff, said yesterday, "is unique" and may have been used to prevent the union from in, in order that they could discipline action.

Cyril Bowes, a member of The Times and a president of the institute,

"It seems to be a case that the NUJ must be directly worried about the number of defections from its members in their efforts to recruit new members from existing members."

Simon Mountford, a member of the institute, said:

"There is no evidence that the NUJ does take prisoners. I was forced to leave a disciplinary hearing in 10 months."

Mr Bowes said that the NUJ had been attempting to recruit new members by threatening to withdraw from the union if it did not accept its demands.

He knew of cases in which union members had followed the NUJ rule by leaving until the dispute was settled before tendering their resignations.

"When they did so they had no knowledge written or otherwise of complaints being laid against them. The use of such underhand methods can only damage the Government's credibility and encourage us to believe that the Government appreciates what we are doing," he said.

I would like to see the Government do more to encourage the public to buy from the private sector, and to help those who are already unhappy at the recent events."

It must also further increase the danger of taking our freedoms for granted, he proclaimed.

He has been recruiting officer over the past year, and at present is the national leaders and officials.

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affic set to expand, ad federation says

That was already happening, he pointed out, with people dropping oil centres because of the cost of gas and road transport taking over a larger share of business.

Road traffic's share of total energy usage had remained steady at 27 per cent since 1976.

Other statistics were that:

British's road safety record last year was the best for 20 years, with 6,350 deaths, fewer than 50 years ago when traffic was under a tenth of today's.

Car and lorry numbers continued to rise with 50,500 cars and 1,800,000 goods vehicles last year, against 14,000,000 and 1,500,000 in 1978.

Britain's motor vehicle trade moved into the red last year with imports worth £4,300,000 and exports of £4m.

Britain's roads were among the most crowded in Europe, with an average of 42 vehicles a kilometre between 38 and 58 in the EEC as a whole.

Road users paid £7,000,000 in tax and got back £2,300,000 in road improvements.

Basic Road Statistics, 1980

British Road Federation, 388 Oxford Street, London W1N 9RE, £3.

sh TV plans rporated in dcasting Bill

From Our Correspondent

Tak Yamamoto, a graduate of Oxford University, who was said to have stolen thousands of pounds worth of rare books from his college, was jailed at Oxford Crown Court yesterday for 18 months.

Mr Tak, aged 36, of Hengrove, admitted stealing 281 books valued at more than £14,000 from Worcester College Library over 18 months.

Mr Neil Tait, for the prosecution, said the books, some dating from the sixteenth century, were worth between £1 and £1,000 each. Some of them had been auctioned at Sotheby's and Christie's.

Judge Myatt QC, told him: "People who deliberately and persistently steal from libraries many valuable books for the sake of gain must expect a severe sentence." He ordered him to pay the college £4,580 for 170 of the books not recovered.

ice fear Home Office wants to lower standards to attract more black and Asian cadets

From Our Correspondent

The possibility of lowering standards to attract more black and Asian cadets may be raised by a Home Office delegation during the early stages of its negotiations with police service unions.

The idea has already been opposed from within the police service, which is watered down, pre-qualifications.

Most of the working party was agreed by the delegation during the meeting led by Lord Cledd-Perrin that he should be considered for Welsh-language posts on the fourth channel from the fifth, the possibility of a two-channel transatlantic period.

The delegation will have overall responsibility for the channel and to ensure in particular substantial proportion of titles are in Welsh.

BC is required to supply a majority of Welsh and independent broadcasting in Wales.

It is composed of police stations, local authorities, educational authorities, and the Home Office's police service.

Three months ago, the Home Office's police service, which is composed of police stations, local authorities, educational authorities, and the Home Office's police service.

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IRAN/IRAQ WAR

Iran promises not to block Strait of Hormuz and continues to defend Ahvaz and Khorramshahr

From Tewfik Mishkawi
Teheran, Oct 1

Iran promised today it would not do anything that would lead to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, through which one third of the non-Communist world's oil has to pass.

A statement carried by Pars, the official Iranian news agency, said: "The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, fully aware of its international obligations, wishes to assure the international community that Iran shall not spare any effort to keep this waterway in full operation."

The statement added that several unnamed governments were considering intervening in the Gulf conflict under the pretext of concern over the possible closure of the strait.

Today's Iranian assurance, though it has been greatly welcomed by the West, does not mean that the danger to Gulf oil exports is over.

There is still a strong possibility that the conflict could spill over to the southern part of the Gulf, jeopardizing international shipping with the continuing deadlock on the present battle scene either Iraq or Iran might find it necessary to make a breakthrough elsewhere.

After 10 days of fighting the Iraqis seemed to have been stopped from advancing. The principal cities which Iraq claimed to have conquered are still holding out. These include Ahvaz, the provincial capital of Khuzestan, and the vital port of Khorramshahr. The oil city of Abadan is still under siege.

A broadcast on Abadan radio stated today that street fighting was taking place in Khorramshahr, apparently in an Iraqi attempt to capture the city.

Tehran radio claimed that 21 Iraqi tanks were destroyed and two Iraqi fighter jets shot down during battles in the southern front, near the dis-



puted Shatt al-Arab waterway. Iraq, however, claimed nine Iranian jets were shot down during the raid on Basra, and the Iraqi MG fighters counter-attacked by bombarding Iranian targets at Ahvaz and Abadan.

French evacuated: All the French engineers and technicians working on the installation of the Tammuz nuclear research reactor near Baghdad have been evacuated to Jordan, according to the Atomic Energy Commission (Ian Murray writes from Paris). The reactor is not believed to have been damaged by a recent Iranian attack.

War reports: Three sailors were killed when Iranian jets attacked three Japanese, Greek and Kuwaiti merchant ships anchored near Basra, a Japanese news report said.

Another Japanese report said Iraqi jets had bombed—for the second time—Iran's biggest

industrial project, a petrochemicals plant being built on the Gulf.

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capture of the city.

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Iraq said its forces had tightened their grip on Dezful and added its troops would control the city "at any moment" but were giving the enemy an opportunity to surrender before they were crushed.—Reuters, UPI and AP.

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OVERSEAS

Battle for Pennsylvania crucial to Republican plan for dominating the Senate by 1982

By Patrick Brogan

Washington, Oct 1
Senator Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania, a Republican, is running for re-election, and he has to succeed him because he is a prominent Democrat. A Pittsburgher and a prominent Republican from Philadelphia, this is as it should be: two sides forever dispute their leadership.

The other Senator, Mr John Dole, and the Governor, Mr Ted Thompson, are both Republicans from Pittsburgh; now it gets complicated. Democratic candidate is Peter Flaherty, former Mayor of Pittsburgh, who was beaten by Mr Schweiker in 1974 Senate race and by Thompson in the 1978 gubernatorial race.

A Republican nominee, is Arlen Specter, who was District Attorney in Philadelphia and who was defeated by Thompson in the 1978 Senate primary for the governorship. Come what may, the Governor will be defeated next year that he defeated Pennsylvania's senator.

On the other side, the list of vulnerable Democratic senators is long and illustrious. In recent elections, senators have gone from the Senate to defeat in far greater numbers than have Representatives and Democratic leaders concede the likelihood of half losses.

The most prominent are Senators George McGovern, of South Dakota, the party's presidential candidate in 1972 and still its leading liberal, facing a challenge from one of that state's two congressmen; Frank Church, of Idaho, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee; John Culver, of Iowa; Alan Cranston, of California; Birch Bayh, of Indiana; and Warren Magnuson of Washington.

Less prominent, but equally vulnerable, senators are Patrick Leahy, of Vermont; Gary Hart, of Colorado; and John Durkin, of New Hampshire. The Republicans also hope to win Senator Adlai Stevenson's seat in Illinois (he is not running).

Interest is of more than interest, because the Americans have high hopes of the Senate this year, last getting so close that might carry it off in 1982. There are now 59 Democrats in the Senate, of the 34 elections this is a third of the 100-man is renewed every two years (six-year terms) 24 Democratic and 10 Republican.

It is important to the Reagan Party to hold Pennsylvania's citizens of that state.

Reagan sees merit in arms race

New York, Oct 1.—Mr Ronald Reagan, the Republican candidate said that as President he would scrap the strategic arms limitation treaty (SALT 2) allowing Senate vote on toughen the American stances and seek arms talks with the Soviets.

In an interview with Associated Press yesterday, he said he strengthened American forces to put more pressure on Moscow by raising "the possibility of an arms race".

The SALT 2 treaty, negotiated and signed by President Carter, is "fataally flawed" and "it isn't arms limitation", Mr. Reagan said. The purpose of the arms accord with Russia was to ensure that "neither one of us can threaten the other".

He would withdraw the treaty that has been awaiting Senate approval for more than 14 months.

are luckier than those of less favoured places; both parties are competent, active and moderate politicians. Either would make an excellent senator.

The only other Senate seat now held by Republicans that might fall to the Democrats are Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona. The first is up for the best bet for the Democrats. Senator Jacob Javits is running as a liberal, with no obvious enthusiasm, after losing the Republican primary. Senator Dole has problems in Kansas, despite his solid Republican tradition, Peter Flaherty, former Mayor of Pittsburgh, who was beaten by Mr Schweiker in 1974 Senate race and by Thompson in the 1978 gubernatorial race.

The other Senator, Mr John Dole, and the Governor, Mr Ted Thompson, are both Republicans from Pittsburgh; now it gets complicated. Democratic candidate is Peter Flaherty, former Mayor of Pittsburgh, who was beaten by Mr Schweiker in 1974 Senate race and by Thompson in the 1978 gubernatorial race.

These are rare occurrences. With a few southern conservatives to help, Mr. Ronald Reagan as President could probably get most of his proposed legislation through the Senate, but the real importance of winning control would be to put Republicans in charge of Senate committees.

Senator Magnuson, for instance, has always been thought perfectly safe in Washington, but he is chairman of the Appropriations Committee and can therefore direct an unending and limitless flood of federal monies homewards. He is 75 and in failing health.

Senators McGovern, Church, Cranston, Durkin, Hart, Bayh and Culver are on the conservative Republians' "hit list", because of their support, or failure adequately to oppose, such things as gun control, abortion, the Equal Rights Amendment, and welfare spending.

One of the right's victories in 1978 was the defeat of Senator Clark Clark, of Iowa. The victor, Roger Jepsen, is a lavatory seat manufacturer.

Senator Culver has a rather more respectable opponent against him, Congressman Charles Grassley; but it will be a fight over personalities, in Iowa as elsewhere.

A new United States arms build-up would put pressure on the Russians to strike an acceptable bargain on SALT, he insisted.

"The one card that's been missing in these negotiations has been the possibility of an arms race," Mr. Reagan said. "Now, the Soviets have been racing, but with no competition. He (the Russians) will be far more inclined to negotiate in good faith if he knows that the United States is engaged in building up its military."

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THEATRES

CINEMAS

THE ARTS



Photograph by Donald Cooper

What the West End has needed

Pal Joey

Albery

John Russell Taylor

The last revival of *Pal Joey* I know of was an all-black version which founded on its way to Broadway a couple of years ago despite the charismatic presence of Lena Horne among the principals. The trouble was that the producers, equipped with one of the few sure-fire, time-proof classics of the American musical theatre, thought they knew better: they jettisoned half the score, modernized the script to include a trip to a psychiatric disrobing room, and then were surprised it did not work.

The great advantage of the present revival, and the prime reason it has negotiated successfully the much more hazardous transition from East End to West, is that everyone involved is happy to concede that Rodgers and Hart and John O'Hara knew best. O'Hara's book is still one of the best crafted ever written for a musical, and rightly considered puts the exaggerated claims of innovation and revolution made on behalf of later shows from *Oklahoma!* to *Sweeney Todd* in the proper chastening perspective. Neither Joey nor his older protégée is softened or sentimentalized one jot, and their progression to the comforts of disillusion is charged with a cruel irony which is sophisticated enough not to keep point-

ing out to us how sophisticated numbers ever devised to give someone a big chance in a tiny role.

It is a show which is not full of hits, like *Oklahoma!* because in it the parts, admirable as they are, all really contribute to the whole. So do all the cast in this version, which may have made a star or two (Stan Phillips certainly looks more like a true star than ever before), but relies more on teamwork and the sort of unbacked casting much more possible on the fringe than in something designed from the start for the West End.

In any case the show seems to have lost nothing in its transfer and slight enlargement, while it brings back to the West End a lot of things it has been sorely in need of.

Last night's television

Rex Whistler

BBC 2

Michael Ratchiffe

Rex Whistler (1905-1944) emerged from Derek Bailey's informative programme an attractive and worldly figure whose talent combined sophistication and innocence with a natural "genius" that defies solemn analysis. Many people will know *The Journals in Pursuit of Rare Meats* painted round the walls of the Tate

Gallery, teaming, or Whistler's vision of George IV paying homage to Brighton in the Red Ribbon of the Garter and almost nothing else, or the reversible faces of suffering and jollity in the book Ho-Ho, but, for an artist whose supreme gift was to delight and entertain, it is odd that so little of his work is widely seen today. Something to do with his gentle nature, perhaps. A truly light touch can puzzle the devotees of Gothic and camp. Bailey and his writer, Judy Marie, wisely decided to keep their script simple in order to show as much of Whistler's work as possible and to talk with those who knew him well. From his brother Laurence, Sir Cecil Beaton, the Marquis of Granby, Lord de Valois, Cecil Darnell, Ninette de Valois and Whistler's colleagues in the Welsh Guards, he heard that he was kind, amusing, elusive and hardworking, a paragon of friendliness and courage, and so perhaps he was. Yet there was melancholy too. Women some of his happiest hours with house in Wilton Park. William Walton had also worked there, and *Faade* fizzed and crackled away at the back of the programme. The analogy was apt.

A comprehensive exhibition adored him, and he them, but they would make quite a show.

Rick Wakeman

Hammersmith Odeon

Richard Williams

Now that rock and roll has some history behind it, consideration can be given to determining which artists and artefacts are likely to retain the good qualities they seemed to possess at first appearance. Even at this short distance, it seems probable that toe-bearing the hallmarks of simplicity and honesty will most readily attract the interest and study of generations to come.

Potentially, the worst sufferer from former neglect is the self-styled "progressive rock" of the late sixties and early seventies. Fascinating and sometimes thrilling as much of it was in its time, the early discoveries of Yes and King Crimson even now sound rather absurd in their leadable desire to expand the music's range, they seem to have lost much of the balance between movement and form, between aspiration and intellect, with which "anything" as modest as *Buddy Holly's* "Well All Right" or Smokey Robinson's "The Tracks of My Tears" to communicate across the decades.

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Rick Wakeman, the renowned keyboard player in an album of both Yes and the Strawbs, and his musical acrobatics were fixed in an era when expanding instrumental techniques dictated the shape of the music, resulting in an almost complete annihilation of emotional content.

On Tuesday Wakeman led his four accompanying musicians (anonymous hod-carriers whose performances gave every indication of a belief that musical progressions came in a straight line) through extracts from his several solo albums. To his credit, he does not attempt to weigh the music down with intimations of profundity, but even so it is very thin stuff.

He is rock's own Semprini, or perhaps the link between Jacques Loussier and Sky. Most of the compositions sounded like "Nut Rocker" arrested in passage back to Tchaikovsky; a simple mood associated with "Rocky" and "Smash" piano improvisation; "The Day That Gave Us Lord," is ended," the Vespers hymn, interrupted the baroque.

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longer bear to be away from his wife and young daughter, and prompted him to Sydney, where he hopes they will send him the reviews. Born in Sydney in 1953, Stephen Sewell is the eldest son of a machine fitter.

"At school they said I had literary pretensions, and I began to see myself as the next George Orwell, but there didn't seem to be much of a future in that so, after college, I began hanging around with actors in fringe theatre company, and when they wanted a short play to fill up a double bill I wrote one for them. Then I was on the dole for a while, and eventually I got a playwriting grant from the Australian Arts Council."

Living on that, Sewell wrote his first full-length play, *Cold Father*. We Loved on a Beach by the Sea. It was set in Sydney during the anti-Vietnam movement there. And then came *Trovato*, Sewell's other full-length play, and one which takes its central theme from a parable by Marx: "Men make their own history, but they do not make it just as they please under conditions chosen by themselves; rather do they make it under conditions immediately encountered, given and transmitted from the past. The tradition of all the dead generations weighs like a nightmare on the brains of the living."

"There are", explains Sewell, "two streams of Australian playwriting; there is a nationalistic stream, linked to the political history of the Australian writer discovering his heritage, and then there is an international stream, to which we have been colonised first by the English and now by the Americans and Japanese. I happen not to believe deeply in either America or capitalism, and in that case you start to look for alternatives and sooner or later you start to think about Russia and the revolution that went so appallingly wrong there. You start to wonder how it happened, how a nation with the best ideals could end up within ten years under Stalin, and so you go to the library, get on the books and then suppose how *Trovato* started. I found it much easier to write than a play about contemporary Sydney life, because I wanted to write about the issues that still condition all our thinking. It's a play about the fight for freedom, but none of my characters were major or famous figures in the 1917 Revolution. They're all low-level party workers who were the raw material for history."

Trovato drew respectful reviews from the serious papers in both Sydney and Melbourne, but was dismissed by the tabloids there as "over-political" and "nastily violent".

.

The violence is there, admits Sewell, "but it is crucial to what the play is about, and the way it's done is a problem for the director and actors rather than me. Over here there's no doubt the standard of acting is a great deal higher than in Australia, and the pressure and tension of rehearsals is a lot greater even in the first week. Some-

Die Entführung
Norwich Theatre Royal

William Mann

Glyndebourne Touring Opera is on the road again this week in Norwich. The productions are those mounted during festival seasons at Glyndebourne, the principal singers mostly those who understudied their parts during the festival, but including some established young artists recruited specially for the tour. The orchestra is the same ensemble. The conductors are from the Glyndebourne music staff, led by Nicholas Braithwaite.

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Turkish invaders were real to Mozart's Viennese audience, and today we are bound to relate Osmin and Selini to their Muslim descendants and neighbours, no cause for laughter, unless to boast anxious morale.

Glyndebourne's tourist cast includes Elizabeth Belmonte in Keith Lewis' recuperable in the florid ariettes of the area above-named, Yvonne Kenny as a staid, brave Constanze, more than decent in her fiendish virtuous arias, Roger Bryson unusually thin and short as Osmin, with a small but true basso aria, Deborah Sills' Blöchlein, hard-headed but sensibly measured, and Osmin's wife, the sly and shrewd Sophie, singing "Masquerade". Adrian Thompson is the engagingly chatty, myopic Pedro, Christopher Blades a competent but dull Pasha.

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The singers all had trouble with their high-lying music, cruelly put upon them by Mozart. On the first night of the tour they merited leniency, as perhaps did the orchestra conducted with bold ease and firmness by Nicholas Kennerley.

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The German spoken dialogue does not avoid odd pronunciation, nor the singing, but was sufficiently clear to draw spontaneous laughter. The essence of Wood's production is there, but those who see it without distraction, but to view the cast has settled down into shape.

London debuts

The Swedish pianist Lager Södergren arrived to expectations already elevated by her recording of late Beethoven sonatas, and confirmed at least some of her pretensions by the scale of her performance of the first half of her recital to Brahms, the two rhapsodies of opus 79 and the opus 118 set of pregnant miniatures. There was no disappointment. Miss Södergren is a player able to communicate great strength of purpose, to mould big phrases whose expressiveness is generous but quite unsentimental, phrases whose almost palpable feel makes for a sense of deep involvement, shared across the platform, in the music's argument and growth.

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The Brahms rhapsodies can rarely have sounded less rhapsodic, Miss Södergren, finding in the C minor piece not only an anguished yearning and wildness but also a short sonata movement urgently pressing through its processes of exposition and development.

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Similarly, the opus 118 pieces were powerfully projected as both secure musical forms, however improvisatory on the surface, and highly charged emotional confidences. In both, however, it would have helped if the humdrum had been scaled with less emphasis on the robust baritone range of the instrument.

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Then Miss Södergren can make the piano sing in a lighter manner was proved by her performance of one of Grieg's books of Lyric Pieces

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opus 43. Here was copious vibrato and a relish for pictorial detail, though not surprisingly, it was with the Beethoven that followed, the "Appassionata" Sonata, that Miss Södergren seemed more at home than with her Scandinavian neighbour.

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The sonata's slow movement had that abundance of dignified emotion, that utterly serene musical journeying, that one associates more readily with Beethoven's last piano works, and the finale went with a galloping accumulation of tension, becoming more strange and complicated right to its ominous end. No doubt the ignoring of a wholesale repeat was necessary to this farcile view; it was certainly well justified.

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And Maria Trenchi da Botticelli was a much less challenging pianist, though she succeeded herself, so it would appear, by the need to rebuild her career after a near-fatal motor accident in 1961. A splashy player, she hit too many wrong notes for her performance of the Liszt *Paganini Etudes* to be properly effective, but this was evidently the kind of music that suited her best. In a Clementi sonata, the B flat major, op 47 no 2, she was quite miscast, and in Chopin's E flat minor Sonata she drew out some nice turns of phrase in the first movement, but tended generally to wallow with insipid lugubriousness.

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Paul Griffiths

Jeeves Takes Charge
Fortune

Ned Chaillet

Edward Duke is so adequate as Bertie Wooster, with his monocle and the smile consisting entirely of upper teeth, that there could be the danger of mistaking him for the character. That laugh, made so real, alive, and witty, may have you don't want to go near the theatre in case it's going badly. It's a very lonely life.

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Not that I intend giving it up, though I do sometimes think I ought to have a real job as well. There's a terrible danger in leading a purely reflective writing life and the danger is that you'll dry up unless you have some sort of daily experience to draw on. There are good reasons for writers not always writing on Arts Council money; if you have a regular job, like my wife who's a nurse in a health centre, you see things to write about all the time.

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Sewell is still in his late thirties and these are therefore early days; but already it is clear that he belongs (with Steve Spiers, who wrote *Bon Franklin* and Louis Nowra who writes almost exclusively dramas about stages of mental breakdown) at the head of the first post-David Williamson generation of Australian dramatists.

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People keep trying to prove that, judged per head of population, there are in fact more theatres in Australia than anywhere else in the world but we're still a very conservative, middle-class country just beginning to come to terms with the gulf we've had to fill for having torn the country away from its rightful Aboriginal owners. We've only had the concept of our own history for about the last fifteen years; before that it was all myth and folklore. And drama has been the raw material for this.

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Travots drew respectful reviews from the serious papers in both Sydney and Melbourne, but was dismissed by the tabloids there as "over-political" and "nastily violent".

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The violence is there, admits Sewell, "but it is crucial to what the play is about, and the way it's done is a problem for the director and actors rather than me. Over here there's no doubt the standard of acting is a great deal higher than in Australia, and the pressure and tension of rehearsals is a lot greater even in the first week. Some-

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At the drop of the monocle he can switch from Bertie to Jeeves with hilarious effect, but true to the rôle Jeeves takes charge for the second episode, donning a morning suit and narrating the story of his cure for Bertie's longing for the comforts of matrimony. There another memorable character comes Mr. Duke's gallery, a young girl who briefly awakens the paternal in Bertie.

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It is all played out in a setting of elegance designed by Cleo Laine, Francis Ender and there is lighting by Philip Woolridge that is light, bright, its part in Mr. Duke's editing.

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Jeeves takes charge of Bertie's bedroom, transforming it into a parlour with the same sense of humour that Mr. Duke applies to his stories. If there was a risk that Bertie would limit Mr. Duke's clear and diverse talents, it passes away at the end when the presents an alluringly dancing Wooster, a bright, bouncy entertainer of charm.

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Boxing

Ali is counting on the psych' weapon

on Michael Johnson. There is no legend of his ability to absorb punishment among his greatest achievements. Muhammad Ali should have had 10 times for the World Boxing Council's heavyweight title had not Holmes, the other guy, beaten him in the bout's first round. Holmes, the other guy, beat him in the bout's first round. Holmes, unbeknown to his professional bouts, has been held much doubt the best heavy weight in the world.

All he needs is a good record, not just a good record, but a good record for years and has met nobody of his class since he last beat you in September 1976. It's not that Holmes' record is bad; it should not end his reign forever with a bad defeat.

The gamblers here, not so much for sentimental qualities, but for caution about wagering on the fight, are not so sure.

The "All" in the "All vs. Ali" contest was cut down from 25 to 10 to 12, and may start at even

two to one on the day of the fight, if the betting is strong enough.

Holmes, who is 21 and was

below his recent peak eight

years ago, has several reasons for his confidence to beat

Ali, the most important of which is the fact that he has not lost to him for

10 years and has met nobody of

his class since he last beat

you in September 1976. It's

not that Holmes' record is bad;

it's that he has not lost to him

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New Books

On the run in Greeneland

Ways of Escape
By Graham Greene
(Bodley Head, £6.95)

"How do you visualize yourself?" said the major-general at the Emergency Reserve draft board to Graham Greene in the winter of 1939.

I muttered something about the original advertisement for the reserve having mentioned journalists being among the categories of men required. I had once been a journalist.

"Yes, yes," the general said with a complete lack of interest, "but how do you see yourself?"

It was quite a smart question. The immediate answer, to the board's relief, was "Infantry" (they had been dreading Intelligence, which everyone was asking for, though they put him in MIS in the end); a more timeless one would be something like "in the mirror, with a merciless eye" (only the novelist who learns to know himself can make his characters live); whilst from his rather disappointing new book of autobiographical writings the general would have concluded that the writer sees himself, as the title suggests, as perpetually on the run. The theme of escape insists itself throughout.

On the run from what? From failure and success, from boredom and fear, routine and "the deathless reputation". From labels ("Catholic novelist"—despicable name!) and the contamination of vulgar fame, admirers of *The Heart of the Matter* pursued him with their sexual and spiritual problems to the lanes of Asuncion itself, testing his Christianity to the full.

Writing itself, of course, is an ideal form of escape, unless you happen to be a writer, in which case there comes a time when you have to escape from writing, too. How creatively and productively Greene did this is the story of *Ways of Escape*.

It is an economical enterprise, all fine, sharp scissors

and a nice class of paste. Nearly all the material has been published before, and nobody is pretending that it has not. To the 21 autobiographical pieces of the handsome Collected Edition which has been appearing over the past 10 years—*Travels with my Aunt* and *The Honorary Consul* (Heinemann/The Bodley Head, £6.95 each) are the twentieth and twenty-first volumes, and there remains only a handful of titles still to do—have been added affectionate memoirs of close friends like Herbert Read, Evelyn Waugh and Robert Scott (obituary tributes); a vivid short diary of the London Blitz (raw material for *The Ministry of Fear*) and extended reports from the wars in Malaya, Indo-China and Kenya in the Fifties, Warsaw in 1956 and Sinai in 1967, commissioned by, among others, *Figaro*, *The Sunday Times* and *Life*. Some of these are superb:

Indecision ruled the Government before the Emergency and it ruled the Emergency because it was part of the modern world. What has lost the power of clear action because we have lost the ability to believe.

What is wrong indeed is not the copy itself, but the loose way it is arranged, and the hope that all the unlike elements will add up to a credible book called *Ways of Escape*. Having enjoyed *Dr Fischer of Geneva* so much earlier this year, I am sorry to say that they do not. Abrupt jumps too often lead from one transposed preface to the next or from one prose style to another, quite different. Above all, the language on the cover, "warm and engaging", is off-putting. Bibliophiles might care to know that the novels in the Collected Edition are set by William Clowes (Beechies) Ltd in Monotype Ehrhardt and that *Ways of Escape* comes in Monophoto Ehrhardt from Thomson Litho Ltd of East Kilbride. They will certainly wonder why Thomsen's favour an acute accent on the final letter of *Panama*, whilst Clowes do not, and why, when they come to the language of Paraguay, Guarani, the positions of Suffolk and Scotland are reversed. A faint feeling of legal pull lingers over the deceptive candour of Mr Greene's act of book-making. I suspect that Aunt Augusta and Mr Visconti had more than a hand in it somewhere. Was she not always urging her nephew to make the most of himself?

Michael Ratcliffe

prepare to ride off into the sunset, this is the best they can manage. He: "You'll never leave me again will you?" She: "Don't know. Can't promise. Probably not." Eat your heart out, Barbara Cartland.

Upper lips are just as stiff in two other of this week's new offerings, both by first-time novelists concerned with the themes of pacifism in The Great War. Alison Leonard's heroine is Dora, the 15-year-old daughter of an austere shopkeeper and his flinty wife, who has to cope with the emotional and intellectual problems of puberty against the background of the horrific goings-on in France. Her own brother is savagely treated for his refusal to fight, while the admired elder brother of a friend goes to pieces as a result of his experiences in the trenches. Dora's difficulties are enhanced by a blackmailing nanny and a Montague-Capulet church-chapel feud which splits her from her best friend. It is a simple tale, simply told, but an engaging addition to the rapidly growing stack of novels about the period.

Jonah Jones' account of what happens to a young Quaker who enlists despite his convictions and ends up not in Flanders but in the middle of the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin is a promising debut, the first of a planned trilogy of books about Anglo-Irish relations. Occupied by the writing is banal ("So the deed was done! Panjicourt had never pulsed in his veins before"), but the action is well described. The presence of a psychopathic commander leading from the rear leads to massive and pointless carnage, and the book ends with a cruel twist.

Finally, two very different accounts of life in modern Russia, one a collection of length short stories by the dissident satirist Vladimir Voinovich, the other a fictional treatment of the events which followed the announcement in 1958 that Boris Pasternak was to be awarded the Nobel Prize, written by an author whose real identity, we are coyly informed, cannot be revealed. Both books knock the system out. The Nobel Prize by Yuri Krotov (translated by Linda Hamilton, £5.95), is so clumsily written that most of the effect is lost. Bathos abounds. For example: "Impulsively, Pasternak got up from the chair and rubbed his forehead with his palms."

The Nobel Prize is written in such a heavy-handed and unsophisticated fashion that one is left with the sneaking suspicion that the whole thing is a diabolical KGB plot designed to discredit their dissident writers by making us believe that they can't write. If this is their game, then they had better get rid of Vladimir Voinovich pretty quickly. In Plain Russian, translated by Richard Lavelle (Cape, £6.50), is an evocative and often extremely funny series of vignettes of Russian life, as delightful to read as its predecessors. The Life and Extraordinary Adventures of Private Ivan Chonkin and The Ivanovitch. Whether he is writing about building supervisors with an unpatrician pride in their work, soldiers, peasants or writers, Voinovich has a rare ability to convey how it feels to live in a different culture. The privileges of the élite, the shortages, the inefficiency of the system are all here, and above all the drinking. For this is a society which floats on a sea of alcohol.

Henry Stanhope

Quick guide

Studies in English Linguistics by Randolph Quirk, edited by Sidney Greenbaum, Geoffrey Leech, and Jan Svartvik (Longman, £18). This festschrift by his friends and colleagues celebrates the 60th birthday of the witty and well-named man who pioneered the notion of studying English in the diverse ways she is actually spoke, rather than as it is written according



Six Byzantine Emperors from a fourteenth-century manuscript: (top row) John II, Manuel I, and Alexios II; (bottom row) Andronikos I, Isaac II, and Alexios III. From *The Byzantine Empire* by Robert Browning (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £8.95), a lucid, scholarly, and prettily illustrated little history of the thousand years of the forgotten empire that is the umbilical cord to our classical past.

Forgotten forefathers

The Etruscans

By Michael Grant
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £17.50)

Byzantium

The Empire of New Rome

By Cyril Mango
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £17.50)

Under the Anglo-Saxons kin as well as the skin we are Romans in England. Rome looms so large in our past that it blots out our less dominant ancestors. These two recruits to Weidenfeld's admirable History of Civilization turn the lights up on founding fathers of our culture who are seldom illuminated for the layman: the Etruscans who preceded Rome; and the Byzantines, the epigoni who transmitted Rome to us.

Apart from public oblivion they have little in common. The Etruscans were a peculiar blend of oriental, Hellenistic, and native originality.

The Byzantines were rustic, martial, until the sporadic introduction of western ideas of romantic love in the twelfth century. So far as there was a typical Byzantine mentality, it disappeared, of rustic and games, and had a horror of sexual relations, and incest in particular. Woman was a crawling worm, the daughter of meander, the enemy of peace.

Both Etruscans and Byzantines preferred formalized paintings to classical naturalism; they would have preferred Picasso and Modigliani to Raphael.

Our difficulty in finding out more about the ancient Etruscans comes from the bad press they received in Greece and Rome. Macaulay's *Lays of Ancient Rome* reflect an attitude that cannot begin to do justice to Constantine.

The Etruscans have left virtually no literature, and we

still cannot grasp the fundamental structure of their language—*Vixen forces ante Agamemnon*. The Byzantines left 50,000 manuscripts in Greek alone, far too many even for the most diligent student. The Etruscans were superstitious, pleasure-loving aristocrats, with their Lisa erotica, and a reputation for obesity and sins in the ancient world. Their women, in their wavy Greek braids, seem to have been much freer than in Greece and Rome. On slender evidence dear old Theodore Mommsen pronounced that the depravity of Etruscan women "is no way short of the worst, although certainly not Lydia, Herodotus is an untrustworthy and obstinate witness".

Michael Grant, one of the most readable, scholarly popularizers, uncovers the last known news about the Semitic immigrants who claimed the Greeks for "the command of the seas"; and those they left behind.

Cyril Mango does not attempt a "universal" chronological chronicle of his vast theme, but gets inside the mind of the Byzantines in the street by considering aspects of their life and times. Both Etruscans and Byzantines had a typical Byzantine mentality, it disappeared, of rustic and games, and had a horror of sexual relations, and incest in particular. Woman was a crawling worm, the daughter of meander, the enemy of peace.

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The vanishing island

Atlantis

By Phyllis Young

Forsyth
(McGill-Queen's University Press, Croom Helm, £12.50)

The legend of Atlantis has long cast its spell, particularly—and more recently—over the lunatic fringe.

To date, just about the only people not to be associated with this mysterious island are the Lost Tribes of Israel; but doubt their turn will come.

Recent developments on Santorini (the ancient Thera) have reopened the whole question: a subject on which Professor J. V. Luce has written by far the best book, even if you do not go all the way with him.

Mythologists, archaeologists and vulcanologists have all added their bit, and you might well ask: Why then another Atlantis? Such were my feelings on opening this book, but I am now happy to retract, and to maintain, on putting it down, that Professor Forsyth has made a really important contribution to the subject.

Her strength is that she tackles from the very beginning: and what a curious beginning it is. The story is put by Plato, in two installments in the *Timaeus* and the *Critias* into the mouth of his kinsman Critias. Critias had it from Solon, the great Athenian lawgiver, who had it from an Egyptian priest.

The Atlantis story is quoted in full, incidentally, its only occurrence in ancient literature. A story of a rich island civilization (described in great detail) which flourished thousands of years earlier out in

the Atlantic Ocean, "beyond the Pillars of Hercules". All went well till the Atlanteans became too ambitious and tried to conquer all Europe and Asia. They failed, and were defeated by the Greek forces under the leadership of Athens. Soon afterwards there occurred violent earthquakes and floods, and Atlantis sank into the sea.

After discussing the history of Plato and of Solon, the author passes to the consideration of the nature of myths, in particular geological myths, created to account for dimly remembered natural disasters. Plato's use of myth is considered in some detail, for it could be the key to the whole question. In fact, he has a very bad record in this respect, and even went so far as to advocate the invention of myths for the good of the community.

Bur all this, suspicious as it is, is not enough to destroy the Atlantis story. It was once believed that a large island might well have existed in mid-Atlantic; but this is now known to be geologically impossible. If not there, where else? Many areas have been proposed: North Africa, Tartessus in Spain, the British coast, the North Sea, Heligoland, Britain, the Arctic, the Antarctic, America, and finally, Minoan Crete.

All these theories, except the last, are demolished totally.

With great courtesy, Critias clearly has more to offer for quite a few elements of the Minoan civilization have their counterparts in the Syracuse story. And when Professor Marinatos, as a result of his recent excavations on Santorini, established to his own satisfaction that the Minoan

obtained it by means that were at least as constitutional as those that had kept his three predecessors in office. In fewer than 200 pages Norman Stone compresses the corrective historiography of the Third Reich over the last 25 years—the scholarship, for example, of historians as different as Karl Dietrich

Bracher, David Irving, Werner Maser, and Niemann Rich—into a riveting and confident narrative as remarkable for its tenacity as for its readability. A valuable and much-needed synthesis.

Philip Howard

The Garden of Weapons, by John Gardner (Hodder & Stoughton, £5.95). The spy novel that augers excellently.

From Yugoslavia, Pittsburgh, Leningrad, we converge on Oxford. Unusually simply spine-wrenching, the book provides a general framework with an historical introduction, followed by chapters dealing with the various anti-service industries, and finally brief regional surveys. If this edition fails to set Industrial Archaeology into the academic pantheon, it introduces the subject to a new generation of enthusiasts. It will soon have been worth reading.

David Secker

The Cuban Connection by Peter Pemberton (Hale, £5.50). First novel that augers excellently. From Yugoslavia, Pittsburgh, Leningrad, we converge on Oxford. Unusually simply spine-wrenching, the book provides a general framework with an historical introduction, followed by chapters dealing with the various anti-service industries, and finally brief regional surveys. If this edition fails to set Industrial Archaeology into the academic pantheon, it introduces the subject to a new generation of enthusiasts. It will soon have been worth reading.

Industrial past

Industrial Archaeology of Farming in England and Wales

By Nigel Harvey
(Easford, £15)

A Guide to England's Industrial Heritage

By Keith Falconer
(Batsford, £9.95)

Industrial Archaeology in Britain

By R. A. Buchanan
(Allen Lane, £10)

Imaginative academics inspired enthusiasm, and the blessing of the Department of the Environment have given the industrial archaeology movement its strength and a reader. The authors of three books published recently conveniently represent this unusual unity. Nigel Harvey's new book is called *Industrial Archaeology of Farming in England and Wales*; more than an inspired enthusiasm, it was prepared by Principal Scientific Officer of the Agricultural Research Council, and is well worth the Survey of Monuments. Survey staff need the Department of the Environment gets to putting money into Industrial Archaeology, but "industrious" is not the word. His *Industrial Archaeology of Farming in England and Wales* is a welcome addition to the field.

This is a comprehensive study by one of the best sites surveyors, and the book is well worth the price. It is a guide to the past of the country, and the Survey's new chairman, Dr N. A. Buchanan, is the author of *Industrial Archaeology of Britain*, an assessed version of one of the best general introductions to the subject. The enormous *Survey of Monuments* is a guide to the past of the country, and the Survey's new chairman, Dr N. A. Buchanan, is the author of *Industrial Archaeology of Britain*, an assessed version of one of the best general introductions to the subject. The enormous *Survey of Monuments* is a guide to the past of the country, and the Survey's new chairman, Dr N. A. Buchanan, is the author of *Industrial Archaeology of Britain*, an assessed version of one of the best general introductions to the subject. The enormous *Survey of Monuments* is a guide to the past of the country, and the Survey's new chairman, Dr N. A. 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A positive push to help television women find their niche

A pioneering project, the first of its kind in this country, has begun at Thames Television to improve the position of women at work by positive discrimination.

It is being carried out by the National Council for Civil Liberties, with the company's co-operation, as part of a wider programme to make use of parts of the Sex Discrimination Act, and to do something about the widening pay gap between men and women.

The research will look at the feasibility of carrying out such an exercise in the area of racial as well as sex discrimination; it will involve finding out what jobs women and blacks do; drawing up a programme of action within a company or organization to improve training opportunities and to set a target for the number of women in certain posts at a particular date; and monitoring whether or not that is carried out.

Thames Television is the only organization to have agreed to take part in the positive discrimination programme to date. This part of the research is being funded by the Equal Opportunities Commission. Other elements of the project are being funded by the Commission for Racial Equality.

Mr. Sadiq Khan, a barrister and the NCCL's consultant on the Thames project, said women employees were very interested in the idea. As he said, she was holding monthly meetings to discover their grievances: whether they were more interested, for example, in better technical training or in more child care.

Women were entirely excluded from certain jobs in television, she said. At Thames there were no female camera operators and no women in the sound, lighting, departments. That was due to institutionalized discrimination. In fact they had perhaps studied particular subjects at school and did not have the necessary qualifications.

"What one has got to do is give a commitment to equality of opportunity," says Mr. McKibbin. "The company is to introduce training schemes to overcome this," said Mr. McKibbin. A full town section of the Sex Discrimination Act of 1975 doesn't fact entitle employers with few women in a particular job to take limited action to encourage women to

This can include sending lecturers to schools to encourage girls to do subjects they might not normally study, improving child care arrangements, and providing specific training schemes.

The NCCL's project comes at a time of increasing interest throughout the world in positive discrimination policies. The United States has accepted the concept for some time, and American courts have been active in forcing companies, such as Greyhound Bus, and the Bank of America positively to encourage the recruitment and promotion of women. Policies have been drawn up and enforced and companies preferred to set goals of, say, how many women would be in certain kinds of jobs by a particular time. The EEC has now decided to draft a directive on positive discrimination.

All this may sound foreign and probably abominous to the British ear, and the NCCL researchers are anxious to talk in terms of targets rather than quotas, which are anyway outlawed under the Sex Discrimination Act. They are looking around for another three to five companies or organizations willing to take part in developing a positive discrimination policy.

So far the difficulties have been mainly in persuading management to cooperate, at a time of financial stringency, when spending rather than political or social considerations are paramount. Mrs. Ann Sedley, the NCCL's women's rights officer, and Ms Elizabeth Ball, who is running this particular project, would like to work with a hospital and a factory.

The group had a particular lever with Thames: the company had signed Camden Council's equal opportunities policy and, with the franchise for the fourth television channel, soon up for grabs, was presumably concerned about its image.

An NCCL pamphlet on positive discrimination will be published later this year and an international conference will be held on the subject next April. This conference is being financed by the Ford Foundation and the German Marshall Fund and will be addressed by speakers from all over the world.

Engineers are convinced that positive discrimination programmes are the only way that women can progress from badly paid workers' jobs to levels from which they have been entirely barred in the past.

Lucy Hedges

The Times Cook Book

Shona Crawford Poole

If you go down to the woods today beware of a big surprise

— mushrooms, not teddy bears

in your quarry, you had better know their many disguises. For

it is in the autumn year that

most of the 200 edible varieties

of Britain's 5,000 species

of fungi are to be found.

As Sunday television programme *The Rotten World About Us* showed in riveting, revolting detail, even experts sometimes need reassurance

about what is edible and what is

not. And as experts will admit,

some of the edible varieties

though harmless are not worth

eating except for strictly

nourishing purposes. I do not

much fancy anyway chomping

through a giant puffball, how-

ever immature the specimen or

young in preparation.

Field mushrooms, the wild

version of the cultivated mush-

room, and cep (*Boletus edulis*)

which look as top like shiny

honeycombs, definitely have a

honeycomb pattern in tiny tubes,

the only ones I trust myself to

pick apart. Trap the tender

fully flavoured mescal which

wears its honeycomb pattern on

the outside and appears un-

predictably in spring and early

summer.

Cultivated button mushrooms

sold all year round do not have

as much flavour as their wild

brethren. The flat, open mush-

rooms widely available at this

time of year streaked with chea-

then buttons and much tastier.

The taste of an open mush-

room grilled with garlic, parsley

and butter is so splendid, and

superior to a salad given the

same treatment, that I would

never now dream of bothering

to cook that delicacy known in

the Meringue as well as well as

that is no occasion when they are a real treat as

Not animal or vegetable, but edible

long as someone else has fiddled over them.

Recipes which mushrooms predominate tend to be simple. The ingredients which enter them, worked out long ago, are hard to improve on, and apparent innovations can often be traced to other cuisines. Mushrooms, cooked gently and strong game stock. When I make it with button mushrooms and light stock, a tablespoon of cornflour thickening seems appropriate—but it is entirely a matter of taste.

Crème of mushroom soup

Serves four

Mushrooms with snail butter

Serves four

Mushrooms with coriander

Serves four

Mushrooms with lemon juice

Serves four

Mushrooms with black pepper

Serves four

Mushrooms with bay leaves

Serves four

Mushrooms with parsley

Serves four

Mushrooms with onions

Serves four

Mushrooms with bacon

Serves four

Mushrooms with onions

Serves four

Mushrooms with

Ronald Butt on a union case history that the Labour party should study

The fraternal story of young Mr Hunter-Gray

Mr Frank Chapple can take care of himself, even without all those electricians behind him. Mr Sid Weightman is also unlikely to come to much harm. The unsentimental leader of the railwaymen from the chair of the TUC's transport industries committee has produced such a reaction as to throw Mr Mostyn Evans into quite a state. But what about Mr Hunter-Gray? Who is to take care of him, and those like him, when officials of the transport workers get their teeth in?

You have not, of course, heard of Mr Hunter-Gray, nor, I suppose, have those who are busy in Blackpool this week planning the brave new world of uncompromising socialist democracy, though it is just possible that the name might ring the faintest of bells for Mr Evans. Yet the story of this young man ought to be of concern to the Labour conference because it touches on fundamental questions that the British electorate will sooner or later have to face. What will be the right of the individual to think his own thoughts and act on his own conscience in the closed-shop state? What does the Labour left really feel about toleration?

I have the story from Mr Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Ealing North, who has shown me all the correspondence, and the facts are not in doubt. Last April, Mr Hunter-Gray, one of Mr Greenway's constituents, started work at Lyons Maid, Greenford, as a cold store worker. It was a five-to-six months job for the ice cream season. For the first month, while he was on probation, he did not have to be a union member. But under an agreement between Lyons Maid and the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU), there is a 100 per cent closed shop at Greenford for the sort of job which Mr

Hunter-Gray was doing. To work after a month, he needed union membership and applied for it willingly, since, as he wrote to Mr Greenway, "I believe in unions."

"On May 13," he went on, "Mr P. W. McCann, branch secretary of 01-119 branch of the TGWU, called a meeting of the cold store workers. He told us that we must support the TUC day of action 100 per cent, and that anything we had read in the press to the contrary was propaganda. He also implied that anyone who came to work on May 13 would suffer the loss of their job. At this point, I stood forward and said that I would be attending the next day. I told him that I did not agree with the action as I had voted Conservative in the last election and I was not in disagreement with Conservative policy. Also told Len Murray had said that it was a matter of conscience. Mr McCann replied that it maybe applied to other branches, but he would have a full turn out."

"On May 14 I attended work as usual; the company had posted notices saying there would be work for people who attended." On May 15 I arrived at work at 7 am to be told that I had been black-legged, and could not work. Mr McCann said that I had been black-legged because of pressure applied by members, although there could only have been a handful of his members present before 7 am. For the next four days I did nothing but sit alone in an office for most of the day. The company tried to find alternative work for me, but the union blocked every move."

Now, this probationer was not the only person to work that day at Lyons Maid's Bridge Park factory at Greenford. According to Mr Manze, the personnel director, in a letter to Mr Greenway, the elector

tricians' union, the TGWU white collar section, the AUEW technical and supervisory section and the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs all decided to work normally. Only the TGWU and the AUEW branches decided on a stoppage.

"The company," wrote Mr Manze, "posted a notice to the effect that the factory would be open as normal and all staff reporting for work would be found work and paid."

Nor was Mr Hunter-Gray the only person whom the TGWU sought to control (but do not forget that he was not a member) to turn up for work that day. Three TGWU members did likewise. One of them, Mr Henry Kingsley, wrote to Mr Greenway saying that the next day, "the senior steward demanded she remove from the site of us four... To the credit of the management of Lyons Maid, I must state that they refused this demand although the firm was sifting on £3m worth of ice cream which could be lost if the union would call a strike." The management removed us four from our normal work and we spent the next two weeks or so at an office doing nothing, and neither did the management ask us to do any kind of work."

On May 19, Mr Hunter-Gray received a letter asking him to attend a meeting of the TGWU branch on May 31, to consider his application for membership. It was signed "Yours fraternally, P. W. McCann". The applicant describes the meeting in these terms: "I found myself facing a hostile panel of 26 branch officials, who cross-examined me as to my political beliefs. They appeared to believe that you could not be a member of a union unless you were a socialist."

On June 5, Mr Hunter-Gray received another letter from Mr McCann, written to Miss S. M. King, the personnel officer, saying that Mr Hunter-Gray had not accepted as the conditions of his employment the agreement by the management and the TGWU that membership of the branch committee "but that he had the right of appeal, within 14 days. Mr Hunter-Gray accordingly appealed, and got a reply from the Regional Secretary, Mr S. Stadden, therefore considered the company to be in breach of their agreement, being prepared to employ a non-union member.



Mr Hunter-Gray: "I believe in unions."

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Mr Hunter-Gray was sacked. Or, as the personnel director put it in a letter to Mr Greenway, since the only exemption from the closed shop agreement was for people with a genuine religious objection to union membership, and since the full-time union official had reaffirmed, on being contacted again, that the decision was within the union's rules, "the Company, therefore, had no option other than to honour its agreement with the union and terminate Mr Hunter-Gray on June 17, 1980 (sic)."

Well, it's a hard life for management these days, and Mr Manze told Mr Greenway how, on the day after the Day of Action, the senior shop steward reported to the regional secretary in Scotland, "that feelings among the TGWU members were running high against the four who worked there and there was a threat of an instant spontaneous (sic) walkout by the workforce unless the four were removed". So, taking it clear that the four would not be dismissed as they had broken no company rules, the company "decided to employ them on other jobs" to provide a "cooling-off period". But did feelings cool off? Well, not so far as the application for union membership was concerned, during which his constituent had been unemployed "through no fault of his own" and the investigation exposed in Mr McCann's letter to the personnel manager, Mr Hunter-Gray could not work at Lyons Maid unless he worked in the interests of the union. The union had refused him membership (for an act of conscience, for which millions were not punished in a political, nor an industrial dispute). Therefore he must be dismissed from Lyons Maid.

The same logic, however, was not applied to the other three. They were let off with a fine of a day's pay to clarify the constituent's grievance. They were already union members.

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Mr Greenway received in reply a short formal letter with the typed designation "General Secretary" at the bottom—but unsigned! "We have to acknowledge," We note the position. "We will communicate with you." The letter surprised Mr Greenway by saying that reference was being made to the regional secretary in Scotland, but this seems to have resulted from a misprint of a digit in the union's branch number in Mr Greenway's letter.

A subsequent letter from the Administrative Officer informed the MP that inquiries were being made with the appropriate reason and when he had information, Mr Greenway would be advised.

Mr Greenway heard nothing.

So on July 29, he wrote again to Mr Evans pointing out that he had had no reply for five weeks during which his constituent had been unemployed "through no fault of his own" and at the investigation exposed in Mr McCann's letter to the personnel manager, Mr Hunter-Gray could not work at Lyons Maid unless he worked in the interests of the union. The union had refused him membership (for an act of conscience, for which millions were not punished in a political, nor an industrial dispute). Therefore he must be dismissed from Lyons Maid.

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So, I have good news for Mr Evans. Mr Hunter-Gray has got a job at a tyre service station. Meanwhile, he had been informed by Joly, the TGWU's Regional Secretary, namely addressed to "Dear Brother Hunter-Gray", that his appeal had been heard and dismissed, on the grounds that the application could not commit yourself to give an undertaking that you comply with the collective decisions by the branch members," a statement that Mr Hunter-Gray denies making. (He had "not been present at the appeal").

This may seem to be a minor case. It was a job for only half a year, and the man has since got work. But it raises some profound questions of principle. It touches on the right (now) to remain relevant higher up in the union movement as well as of a man to voice a dissident opinion and act on his conscience.

It exposes the extraordinary power of relatively minor union officials over the lives of men who need work. It shows that the threat is not so much to those of who are in employment, where it might be embarrassing to check out, but to our children who may have to conform because employed.

Above all, it touches on the Labour Party notion of freedom in the all-embracing socialist society which is now being planned in which even sermons, rising to monarchs out of the anti-monarchy monopoly are threatened. There is a sense of fundamental principles at the heart of the battle local, case, but, I wonder whether the Labour Party, if it proclaiming the importance of a compassionate and caring society, can see what it is. Or whether, come to that, Mr Evans' claim "Do you think that we will be the end" really to Mr Greenway's letter.

Bernard Levin

You really are a good man, Charlie Brown



greater and more significant than entertainment and amusement.

By now, some of you are no doubt concluding that I have not merely fallen off my trolley, but I do. The answer is that Peanuts (the name given to the cartoon feature) is no ordinary strip, and the cast is by no means to be compared with those of *The Gambols*, *Andy Capp* or *Fred Bassett*. Mr Schulz has something of genius (for depth and range of imagination), the only strip-caroon that can be compared to his is Frank Dickens' *Bristow*, but it is not merely that his work is so much better than that of others which sets him off from his rivals; it is that there is a philosophy in the strip, its characters and their doings which offers something far

carries though even they may be interested in an analysis of it.

There have been, it is worth pointing out, a number of serious studies, in book form, of the Peanuts feature, mostly discussing its religious (those from which will not be all surprised to learn that Mr Schulz is himself a devout Christian), and even if these are discounted, the very fact that they could be inspired by the strip suggests that there is something in it more than natural. If philosophy could find it out.

The clue lies in the spirit of the stories (though there are many running themes, each strip is complete in itself), which is one of extraordinary benignity. Snoopy, who is a

fascist, for ever dreaming of ace or a best-selling novelist is the cynic of the cast. Lucy is the brutal and authoritarian one, riding rough-shod over her brother Linus and subjecting Charlie to an endless series of humiliations. Schroeder lives for nothing but Beethoven, pausing in his playing from time to time to rebuff Lucy's advances with a brutality scarcely less than her own; yet amid all this, it is goodness that prevails.

This is largely due to the character of Charlie Brown as Schulz has conceived and portrayed it. Charlie is the eternal optimist, guided by something that draws him on through no matter how many disasters. The baseball team which he captains is invariably beaten by an immense margin; his kite invariably becomes entangled in a tree; Lucy, though she always promises that this time she will hold the rugger-ball steady while he runs at it and kicks it, invariably snatches it away at the last moment, causing him to fall flat on his back; yet every time Charlie comes up smiling, his faith undimmed, his ideals undamaged, his good nature untouched.

Heavy weather? Perhaps. Mr Schulz, after all, never preaches, never moralizes.

What is more, the strip is consistently funny and delightful, based by the most penetrating observation. All the same, the amateur Peanuts reader does not need a degree in psychology to notice that the chil-

dren's attitudes are in general miniature versions of adult ones, and their relationships likewise. Nor is it difficult to see that the bonds which unite them are made of affection, and in Charlie's case love. (Charlie is in love, as visibly as Lucy is with Schroeder; with a classmate who does not herself ever appear in the strip, but his love for all creatures great and small is much wider than his own affections.)

Some years ago, there was a musical based on the strip (there have been plays, films and television programmes). It was called *Fandango* and the title was also the refrain of the theme song: You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown; and he was known as a young man (he is 21) on the Industrial strength heap which has understandably stirred so much rhetoric this week. And, would you not think that an MP's letter about whether Jim, as he is, is a good man, Charlie Brown, deserves the courtesy of a reply? What would be said of a Minister who simulates Mr Evans?

LONDON DIARY

Plenty of puff in the old girls yet

Next to a bluebottle in the kilt, nothing is more calculated to put the wind up a true Scotsman than the idea of women, and English women, at that, playing the bagpipes.

When the Dagenham Girl Pipers first visited Edinburgh, they were greeted with placards proclaiming "Go home, cockneys in fancy dress." But this troupe of east London ersatz clapsers has survived the slings and arrows of outraged Highlanders to celebrate its golden jubilee on Saturday, with a reunion at Barking.

To find them alive and well on their fiftieth birthday is something of a surprise; they were all the rage in the fifties, and were, like Ivy Benson's all-girl orchestra, the butt of many a music-hall joke. But in recent years they seem to have faded from the lime-light. It is an equal surprise to find that one of the original 1930 pipers is still puffing her way through the repertoire as the band's pipe-major.

Peggy Iris, now 61, told me yesterday: "We used to be a

full-time outfit, fielding as many as four full-bands at a time. But we can't afford the overheads now; there are still 50 of us but we have all been part-timers since 1967."

They still undertake up to 60 engagements a year, and this year have played one foreign gig at a carnival in Oviedo, Spain. But gone are the days when they toured the world; the band newspaper, listing all the countries visited, still includes Cyrenaica, Tanganyika, Transjordan and Tripolitania.

The pipers were founded by the minister of the Congregational Church at Dagenham, who picked a dozen girls from his Sunday school and had them tutored by a pipe-major from the King's Own Scottish Borderers. The pipe-major was not impressed by the idea, but agreed to teach the girls on the promise of payment.

Although hardly the "ladies from hell" that genuine Scots military pipers appeared to the Germans in the trenches of the Somme, the Dagenham girls did their bit for war service, entertaining Montgomery and the Eighth Army the night before El Alamein.

"We might not win any prizes at a pibroch contest on the Isle of Skye, but we have tried to broaden the appeal of

pipe music," Pipe-Major Iris said.

There's life in the old band yet, with a steady stream of 11-year-old Dagenham girls queuing up to join. And the last time the girls played, a date in Scotland, the "hairy" natives didn't bat a sparrow.

Late extra

Yesterday's announcement that the London Evening News is to close comes almost exactly 20 years after the tragic demise of its former competitor, *The Star*, and that paper's distinguished morning stablemate, the *News Chronicle*.

To mark the occasion, if occasion is the right word, John Johnson, chief sub-editor of the *News Chronicle*, has arranged a reunion dinner for those who slaved in that once-great news factory. More than 200 have accepted invitations, including such eminent names as Vernon Bartlett, Lord Ritchie-Calder, Arthur Koestler and the cartoonist Ronald Searle.

One famous name will be absent; the first editor of the *Daily News*, the *News Chronicle's* predecessor, who was in fact not much of a success in the job and left after only three weeks to try his hand, like so many other

ex-Chronicle men have done, at writing-books, at which he had rather bad luck. Name of Charles Dickens.

London graffiti latest: on a wall bearing the large slogan "Free Ireland", someone has added: "With every packet of cornflakes."

Azerbaijan etc

Pravda, no doubt with an eye to the forthcoming Madrid conference of the Helsinki détente, has come as close as it possibly can without actually saying so to admitting that the Russians have been jamming BBC overseas broadcasts since the beginning of the workers' revolt in Poland.

In an article by its commentator Vladimir Bolshakov, the Soviet daily admits to jamming the output of the Munich-based stations Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, which it describes as "the CIA's radio twins". This, it says, is to complete accordance with the spirit and letter of Helsinki.

Then it says that the best way to describe the broadcasts of the BBC, Voice of America and the West German Deutsche Welle is by an old Russian proverb: "If you lie down with the dogs, you get up with the dogs."

According to *Pravda*, the BBC calculates when appropriate information about swings in the state of the parties and so on, are fed in and all directly on to the screen, giving the adjustable images without the need for cameras.

Judging by the *Pravda* article, I am convinced that somewhere deep in Soviet Central Asia there is a huge secret factory using enough electricity to light Moscow for a year, manufacturing sets to accommodate half-frontal pictures of the round-the-Herr-Strauss.

It happened that a representative of West Germany's Rundfunk, one of the broadcasting companies, saw the 1979 BBC results programme here, and was impressed enough to make enquiries that led to a six-figure contract for *Logica*. It will go a small way to paying for all those Ford Granadas which were imagined were being built at Dagenham.

Not the results, of course, but the images in which the results are made graphic, with the aid of a computer-based synthetic picture generator called *Icon*. The system was originally developed by Logica, a London firm of computer and communications consultants for the BBC, and was first used for the 1979 general election results, relegating Robert McKenzie and his tiny old swingometer to the background of Stone Age technology.

According to American intelligence reports, the Russians have 2,500 jamming transmitters at work, each of which uses a large amount of manpower since with that appertaining black nugget in the centre which says:

"truffi" to gourmets the world over.

But David Wolfe, a gastronomist with all the inquisitive qualities of the dog and sow that are used to hunt the succulent tubers in the French woodlands, noted that there was still a suspicion of truffles in the party's list of ingredients. Samples were sent to Westminster City Council for analysis, and the black hole in the middle proved to be filled with earthy seaweed.

Fortnum's, and the importers, have hastily withdrawn all stocks. "Perhaps they can get away with that sort of thing on the Continent," says Wolfe, with lip-smacking satisfaction.

An embarrassing sort of mistake (eight letters) in the clue to 27 across must have taxed the wits of even the sharpest solvers of The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,336 yesterday. An eagle-eyed crossword spotter spotted the word "embarrassing" clearly spelt "ungracious" and naturally corrected it little realising that the error was deliberate. The answer to "an embarrassing sort of mistake" should now be obvious.

Alan Hamilton



LABOUR IN TRAVAL

The Labour Conference has so far provided two of the most disastrous days that the party has ever experienced. At a time when the Government is running into considerable difficulty, when the principal Opposition party has every opportunity to be riding high, Labour has presented a spectacle of irresponsible anarchy. It has espoused policies which are ill-considered and unrealistic. It has elected a national executive committee with even more of a left-wing majority than the previous one. It has passed a constitutional amendment that will weaken the independence of Labour MPs. And it has produced a shambles over the method of electing the party leader.

This last is of particular importance because so many of his hopes for restoring sense and order to the party depend on the influence of a new leader who can bring to the task more gouty and a greater measure of combat, than Mr Callaghan has displayed over the past year. Mr Callaghan has seemed this week to be drawing to the conclusion of a career of mixed fortune, in the course of which he arrived with considerable success for two-and-a-half out of his three years as Prime Minister, as speech on Tuesday was appropriate as a farewell to his flowers. But it did not bear the mark of a man with the rest at the drift towards change and extremism in the party. The conference did not change existing method yesterday, voted in favour of a change, our being able to agree what change should be. For the

moment, therefore, the present arrangement—whereby the leader is elected by Labour MPs—still stands. But the conference has undermined the legitimacy of this procedure, and weakened in advance the authority of any new leader elected under it.

In these circumstances a powerful case can be made for Mr Callaghan remaining until the party has an accepted procedure for electing a successor. If this is not agreed today, it might mean waiting another year before a new leader could begin what is bound to be the exceedingly difficult task of pulling Labour back to a position where it is a credible alternative government. The party cannot afford such a delay. With all the disadvantages of electing a new leader under present conditions, it would still be better if Mr Callaghan were to be succeeded by Mr Healey at the beginning of the next Parliamentary session in November.

One of the principal tasks of a new leader must be to rescue Labour from a policy on Europe that is dangerous both for the country and the party. The conference voted yesterday for outright withdrawal from the European Community. The objections to such a course on grounds of the national interest are familiar enough. But it may seem strange at a time when membership of the EEC is not popular in Britain to assert that the party will also suffer if it persists in this policy.

The reason is that it would in all probability provoke a split at the next election, if not before. The "gang of three"—Mrs Shirley Williams, Mr William Rodgers and Mr David Owen—are well aware of the dangers of breaking away from Labour on such an electorally uninviting issue. They would therefore justify such a move on wider grounds, which they would be unlikely to have much difficulty in finding. But it is hard to believe that Mrs Williams is particularly, after all she has said

over the past few days, could retain the respect of the public and herself if she were to fight the next election on behalf of a party committed to withdrawal from the Community.

It is ironic that Labour's pro-

Marketeters should now be looking to another referendum as a possible compromise, and that this should be rejected by anti-Marketeters who were so keen on the idea in 1974-75. Another possibility would be simply to hope that whoever leads the party at the next election would have the good sense and the authority to prevent a commitment to withdrawal being included in the manifesto. Although yesterday's resolution was passed by the two-thirds majority necessary for it to become official party policy, it does not have to be included. It might also be argued that the decision of the conference yesterday not to put responsibility for the manifesto solely in the hands of the National Executive Committee would make it easier to omit such a European commitment. But while yesterday's manifesto decision was one of the few redeeming features of the conference to date, it would be unwise to put any confidence in such a strategy.

It is unrealistic to expect that any leader in opposition will have the personal authority to disregard such a clear expression of the party's will on a matter of the first importance unless it is reversed at another conference before the election. If Labour is to be saved as a party worthy of national respect the battle will have to be fought within the movement well in advance of the election on the substance of policy, not only on Europe, but also defence (there will be some critical votes on that today) and other issues. It is no use just trusting that all will be well once Labour were back with the responsibility of office.

These of your correspondents who write from the Falkland Islands Office note that Falkland Islanders will receive "second-class citizenship". That the White Paper proposes a "second-class citizenship" for them and others is understandable. It also proposes a "third-class citizenship", bereft it seems of all legal rights, for some who are presently citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies. Some citizens will, further, be entirely stripped of such citizenship. Can this be a matter of indifference to the general public?

Space does not admit a detailed critique to the White Paper. Suffice it to say that its basic policy is simply to cut off all responsibilities remaining from colonial days with little regard for the needs of the people concerned. There is more or less no discussion as to the purpose of nationality (or citizenship). There is equally little discussion of the various international obligations on the matter, and even less on the enormous effects on nationality of EEC membership. The European Convention on Human Rights receives equally cavalier treatment.

Will such proposals be open to further discussion?

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN M. WHITE,
University of Dundee, Faculty of
Law,

Park Place,
Dundee

IN FLEET STREET SAVE ITSELF?

The tombstones of Fleet Street, write one word: "die." Those were the concluding words of the leading article we published on Saturday June 28, which gave precise warning of the inevitability of Fleet Street closures, unless

there was a radical change in the relationship between trade unions and management, a new unity between publishers, and the Evening News became the first newspaper to succumb to the decline of Fleet Street. That leaves seventeen of which at least nine are already operating at a loss.

There is no commercial law that London cannot get two evening newspapers, true that the circulation of Evening News had fallen by over a number of years, there had recently been an element in its editorial policy and it had its own staff, a score of advertising men in the past. The chief editor of the Evening News, is rest of Fleet Street, was costs which were so far large losses had been

inevitable: there was no prospect of bringing the paper back into balance.

If the Evening News had been published on the same basis as evening newspapers in North America, or in many European cities, or even on that of the more efficient provincial cities of England, with modern equipment and proper running standards it would not have incurred these costs. The unions had made concessions to try to save the paper, but costs were still too high. If the rest of Fleet Street were able to operate on modern standards of commercial efficiency, then none of the Fleet Street titles would be in serious danger and most would be profit, even in a recession.

When a title dies, it is natural that those who work in newspapers should feel both sad and angry. It would of course be hypocritical to say that all titles are of equal value. There are, nowadays, one or two mass circulation newspapers to be brought in an orderly way, could have saved the Evening News. It is still open—even after this tragic delay—for Fleet Street to reform itself. The death of the Evening News shows the inevitable consequence of failing to do so. The question that the unions are asking is whether Mr Murdoch will start another evening newspaper. It would be very welcome if he did, but he would be trying to do so on the present Fleet Street standards of manning and cost.

It is nevertheless no use people being angry about an event which is the inevitable outcome of the failure of Fleet Street to reform itself. Three

ITCHERISM ON TRIAL IN AUSTRALIA

on the findings of the poll the Government Labour opposition are neck and neck in the election campaign. political politicians plainly believe that the Labour in overturn the Liberal Party majority of forty-

the 124-seat Lower (it will be 125 in the use). There is more difficult to think that the third Australian Democrats, a balancing vote in the half of which is also to October 18. But, such a constitutional sended the Whitlam in power. Federally, despite its many vicissitudes. That coalition has come to represent for Australians the success their country has shown itself to be, as an expanding nation and economy in the past forty years. And the success story continues despite recession and 340,000 unemployed, for foreign capital pours into the country as its immense natural resources, including energy, are progressively revealed.

Mr Bill Hayden, the Labour leader, is promising to tax these eager foreigners and to keep a controlling equity in their operations, besides offering a lot more welfare spending and disposing an even shorter working week here.

to which Labour retorts with accusations of mismanagement, and makes what play it can with gloomy reports that thousands of families are falling below the poverty line (as drawn in a rich country), and a seventy per cent growth in actual destitution.

The credibility of Labour's challenge is blunted by defeatism. This is mainly a hangover from the failures of the Whitlam years, but derives also from the fact that in the post-war period the Australian voter has sometimes shown a basic conservatism that keeps the Liberal-CP coalition in power. Federally, despite its many vicissitudes. That coalition has come to represent for Australians the success their country has shown itself to be, as an expanding nation and economy in the past forty years. And the success story continues despite recession and 340,000 unemployed, for foreign capital pours into the country as its immense natural resources, including energy, are progressively revealed.

Mr Bill Hayden, the Labour leader, is promising to tax these eager foreigners and to keep a controlling equity in their operations, besides offering a lot more welfare spending and disposing an even shorter working week here.

be brainpower
action Day
being pursued of the list
honors, graduates of
iversity in today's Times
indicates a surprising
of women. Of course,
have to know the num-
ach sex entering the

examinations, but it seems unlikely that there was a preponderance of girls studying law, medicine or pharmacy. Yet in law, eight women were awarded firsts, and only four men; in pharmacy eight women find one, or two names, somewhat ambiguous. I take it 30 each.

Men go often arrogantly assume

that they are the superior sex intellectually. It would be beneficial for all concerned if we could have an accurate analysis made.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM DON,
Bletchley, Buckinghamshire

September 23

Surviving ice houses

From Mr Graham Birrell

Sir, There is an ice house cut into the rock at the back of Ruskin's old home, Brantwood. When I was a boy old outdoor servant of Ruskin's called Wilkinson, lived in the house there. He told me that when Ruskin became crochety and disabled toward the end of his life, Mrs Severn, his cousin, would have him wheeled in there to cool off.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM BIRRELL,
14 Elsworthy Terrace,
Primrose Hill, NW3

September 23

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reporting of Iraq-Iran war

From Mr Edmund Esdale

Sir, England constitutionally is and has always been trapeze, consisting of Sovereign Lords and Commons. A mixed Constitution in which the elements are harmonious, in which the hereditary and constituted are balanced, is most stable; but if any of these elements becomes either excessive or deficient the health of the whole must suffer. In our history the Crown at one time claimed too much; or another the Whig nobility and gentry; now if the socialists were to achieve their aim, the claim would be the Commons.

The indecent emphasis in British and indeed all Western media on the flow of oil, colonial stability and security obscures the fundamental reality that one state has attacked another, and that it has not been condemned for doing so.

The precedent which such a self-serving and hypocritical attitude will set in the standards governing international relations is terrifying. Yours faithfully,
ALIREZA AROUZI,
IRAJ BAGHERZADEH,
KEWMARS BOZOOGHEHR,
HAMID ENAYAT,
CYRUS GHANI,
London SW7.

Upsetting the constitutional applecart

From Mr Philip Thody

Sir, I am struck by one visual impression. Most of the delegates dress like people attending any ordinary business or professional gathering. But there are exceptions, one must assume that he claims to be the "rich outsider" who have caused the kind of resentment which leads to kidnapping.

There is nothing new about this form of banditry. It has been practised in Sardinia for a great many years. At one time it was sheep,

Kidnapping in Sardinia

From Mr Rolf Schild

Sir, I would refer to John Carter's article published on September 20. From the context of his article, one must assume that he claims to be the "rich outsider" who

have caused the kind of resentment which leads to kidnapping.

There is nothing new about this form of banditry. It has been practised in Sardinia for a great many years. At one time it was sheep,

and now it has progressed to kidnapping people, which is more profitable. To quote one bandit,

"They do not make so much noise."

Tourism is encouraged in Sardinia, and had it not been for the developers (not always successful) and the "rich outsiders", the ordinary holiday-makers would probably never have had the chance to enjoy the beauty of the island, nor would the essential services exist.

Far from being exploited, the local population now enjoys a higher standard of living, and has much better prospects than ever before with the influx of tourists.

Carter's "different league" analogy shows ignorance of the true facts. I would have thought that if a fictitious value of the private property is published in an open article, then those who write or are responsible for its publication should also be prepared to underwrite their statements.

The chances of being kidnapped are less than being in an aero-plane crash; and in the same way that it does not prevent people from flying, it should not prevent anyone from spending his vacation in Sardinia. However, it would be a fallacy to assume, and as Carter claims, that only the very rich are potential victims. On the contrary, it is the not-so-rich who may become victims, as they least expect it. The Sardinian native is as likely to be kidnapped or murdered as any foreigner.

We have many friends of all leagues in Sardinia who feel no resentment; there are also habitual and "try-to-get-rich-quick" criminals as in so many other countries. It would seem that Carter attempts to justify their action of one of the most barbaric of all crimes.

Yours faithfully,
ROLF SCHILD,

3 Byron Drive, N2,

September 30.

From Mr H. C. Beastie

Sir, Mr Wedgwood Benn's declaration of intent should his party win the next election, at today's Labour Party conference (September 29), prompts this reply from me.

It will interest him no doubt to have his mind refreshed with the historical fact that the much despised regime in South Africa achieved its ends by the same means. In 1953 the leaders of the ruling party could not get their own way with apartheid legislation and in consequence they flooded the second House—the Senate—with their supporters and got what they wanted.

The next step was the subjugation of the judiciary by the establishment of the High Court of Parliament, which further ensured that they had their own court of appeal should matters not be conducted to their satisfaction.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH BEASTIE,
5 Coombe House,
Fringford,
Bicester,
Oxfordshire

September 29.

From Mrs S. M. Lilley

Sir, It must be fun to be a Lord: I've heard the "perks" are good. What if Ben's thousand new-made peers should vote to stay "in"?

Should vote to stay "in"?

Yours faithfully,
S. M. LILLEY,
Kingsdown Park House,
Tankerton,
Kent.

September 30.

From Sir Max Beloff, FBA

Sir, There is a certain fascination for a student of politics in watching the Labour Party conference on television.

September 30.

Aircraft to 'kill' tanks

From Mr Warwick Collins

Sir, I should like to correct what seems to be an important error in the interesting letter from Squadron Leader Hindley (September 20) on the proposal to develop small aircraft to kill tanks.

The belief that small propeller-driven aircraft of the type mentioned in Lord Giddens' letter (September 18) cannot carry sufficient weapons to destroy modern tanks is easily shown to be fallacious.

A single load for such an aircraft (with, say, a 1,000 hp turboprop engine) would be a maximum of £200,000 per aircraft (as opposed to £1m for a modern battle tank), they could be produced in significant numbers. Together, the two systems would provide a defence system of great cheapness and high mobility, capable of rapidly concentrating firepower wherever there occurred the possibility of an armoured breakthrough.

This is the intriguing possibility which is at present taxing the minds of strategists at the Ministry of Defence. A capacity to deliver conventional attack by entirely conventional means would add to the stability of Europe and would reduce the necessity of restoring at an early stage to nuclear weapons in the tragic event of invasion. I believe this argument refutes the judgment put forward by Mr Michael Rubinstein (September 20) that consideration of such a system is "warmonstering". On the contrary, it is planning for peace.

Yours faithfully,
WARWICK COLLINS,
23 Kingstone Park,
Lymington,
Hampshire.

September 23.

Education proposals

From Professor C. B. Cox

Sir, Your admirable leader (September 30) on Labour proposals to abolish private education draws attention to the rights of minorities. In the future private education may become essential to protect the rights of the majority.

It is not sufficiently realized how in a few years time a breakdown of a consensus on moral values has changed the educational debate. The obvious example is sex education.

Many parents, and I am one of them, want their children to attend schools where teachers inculcate Christian principles. Other people take for granted that young men and women over the age of 16 may properly enjoy temporary sexual relationships as long as they use contraceptives.

There are already areas where a majority of parents find their moral values at odds with those of the senior teachers in their local school. This situation will occur more often in coming years. The liberty of parents to educate their children as they see fit will increasingly

depend on private schools. Labour Party policy runs counter to the urgent need to increase the number of alternative schools to offer a pluralist society opportunities to educate children according to parental beliefs.

BRIAN COX,

20 Park Gates Drive,

Cheadle Hulme,

Stockport,

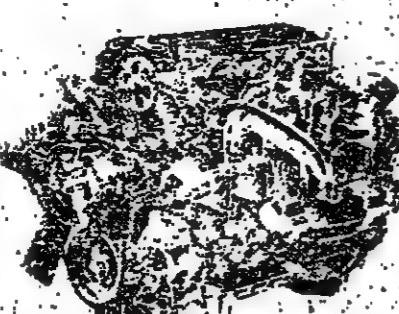
Cheshire.

September 30.

Yours faithfully,

RICH

APART FROM MORE POWER AND LESS CONSUMPTION IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME MERCEDES



To recognize the improvements you have to open the bonnet.

Mercedes-Benz have replaced their existing 2.3 litre petrol engines with a completely new 2.3 litre petrol engine.

To recognize the improvements it now makes, you just have to open the throttle.

MORE THRUST-LESS THIRST

The new fuel-injected engine develops up to 25% more power.

Yet consumes up to 17% less fuel.

In the Mercedes-Benz 230E Saloon or 230 CE Coupe this provides a top speed of 112 mph and at least 33.6 mpg* at 56 mph.

Improved torque means that even at low to medium urban speeds, the

new engine accelerates more smoothly and powerfully. Fewer gear changes are required.

SAVING MORE THAN FUEL

Absolutely nothing new goes into a Mercedes-Benz until it is proved capable of functioning reliably over many years.

In the case of the new engine this meant an arduous testing programme of 1,400,000 miles.

And this new Mercedes-Benz engine needs so little attention, the service interval has been extended to 12,000 miles.

WHY CHANGE A PERFECTLY GOOD ENGINE?

In a Mercedes-Benz no single feature is over-emphasised at the expense of other features. Braking efficiency is considered just as important as top speed.

Protection against collision as important as protection in a collision.

Driver assistance systems, electronic suspension, air bags, anti-theft systems, and so on, are all the result of developments from the new engine.

Increasing the power and reliability of the existing 2.3 litre 4-cylinder engine would have been breaking this kind of mould.

New stresses would have been introduced and these would have adversely affected its reliability.

The demands and techniques of the 1980's produced the only answer - a completely new engine with a completely new gearbox to match the efficiency of the new power plant.

It may have been cheaper to keep the existing 4-cylinder engine at the expense of reliability and fuel economy.

But then 'easy' is not a word you find in the vocabulary of a Mercedes-Benz engineer.



MERCEDES-BENZ ENGINEERS HAVE NO EASY WAY IN THE WORLD.





COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
October 1: The Prince of Wales, Patron of The Royal Opera, and The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President of The Royal Ballet, were present at the opening of the Arts Festival in aid of The Royal Opera House Development Appeal at The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Mr Francis Cornish and the Hon. Mrs Whitehead were in attendance.

WINDING PALACE

October 1: The Duke of Shetland and Viscount Hinchinbrooke and the Icelandic Fish Processing Factory. Late His Royal Highness visited Yingwall Agricultural and Textile Works, the Lerwick Woollen Mill, and the Fife Wool and Retirement in Mainland to be published later this month by Hutchinson.

The other books on a strong and varied list include "The Month in the Country" by J. L. Carr, publisher as well as author of children's books and fiction (Harvester); the story of a war survivor who spends a month in a Japanese compound; "The Lighter Day" by Anna Deavere, daughter of a Bengali father and a German mother (Heinemann); a search for the past and the present in Old Delhi by William Golding of Lord of the Flies fame; "Fiction (Faber); journal of life on a sailing ship from England to Australia in the pine-wind years; "The Bees" by Alice Munro from Ontario (Allen Lane); interlocking stories of the life of a woman from childhood to after marriage in the back streets of a small Canadian town; "No Country for Young Men" by Julia O'Faolain, daughter of Sean (Allen Lane); thriller of modern times with roots going back to the troubles of Northern Ireland; "Pascal's Island" by Barry Unsworth, who has taught at Athens and Istanbul and now Cambridge, as well as writing books (Michael Joseph); mysterious happenings in a Greenwich house in 1968 prefigure a larger war looming over Europe.

The winner of Britain's most valuable literary award will be announced on October 21.

What's today

Peter Aitken, 75; Miss Alfreda, 83; Marshal of the R.A.F. Dermot Boyle, 75; Professor H. Graveson, QC, 69; Mr. Hugh Greene, 76; Sir Harry Hinde, 82; Major General Hoisington, 89; Rev. Dr. A. S. Her, 52; Lord Toms, OM, 73; Marshal Sir Geoffrey Turville, Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland, 44; in attendance.

DR HOUSE

JAMES'S PALACE

October 1: The Duke and Duchess of Kent were entertained Diner by His Excellency the Ambassador of the Soviet State at Grosvenor Square.

Thanksgiving Service, St. Martin-in-the-Bull Ring, Birmingham, Dean of St. Paul's, 1977, will be held in St. Paul's cathedral at 11 am on Wednesday, October 19, 1980.

Memorial Sunday will be observed on November 8 this year.

Upcoming triages

R. I. Harding

Mr. L. Berman

engagement is announced

son, son of the late Mr. Harding and Mrs. Jeanne, of Beaconsfield, Surrey, and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Berman, of St. Paul, Iowa, United States.

I. Heaton-Nicholls

A. Molloy

engagement is announced

in Murray, son of Mr. and Mrs. Heaton-Nicholls, of tube, Zuland and Amenda daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Molloy, of Hook Norton,shire.

D. N. Healeys, RN

engagement is announced

in David Norton, Racine, Navy, younger son of the Douglass E. N. and Mrs. of 21st Ranger Avenue, and Marian Kathleen, elder of Mr. and Mrs. John Bell, of Sherman Park, Wisconsin, and Mrs. V. Judge.

M. S. M. Windmills

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Stock Exchange Prices

Profit-taking after hours

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Sept 29. Dealings End, Oct 10. § Contango Day, Oct 13. Settlement Day, Oct 20

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

City Offices

Hampton & Sons

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for building products, heat exchange,
plant power, general engineering,
coastal defence, forged and
machined metals.
IMI Limited, Birmingham, England.

1981 OIL CRISIS

2. RISING TO CHALLENGE

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

BRYANTIndustrial
Construction

021 704 5152

Stock Markets

FT Index 483.2, up 22

FT Gilts 70.74, up 0.56

Sterling

\$2.3910, up 35 points

Index 75.8, down 0.2

Dollar

Index 83.5, down 0.3

DM1.8085, down 32 pts

Gold

\$580.50, up \$10

Money

3-month sterling 15.8-15.9

3-month Euro-S 13.4-13.7

6-month Euro-S 13.7-13.8

IN BRIEF

US partner for Lucas in micro-chip venture

Two of the world's largest automotive and aerospace component manufacturers, Lucas Industries and the American TRW Group, are combining to develop a microchip controlled fuel system for diesel engines.

The system, which has been described as "a space age solution to improved emissions and fuel economy" is aimed mainly at the booming diesel engine market in North America.

Car and truck manufacturers who have traditionally used petrol engines are switching to the European type of diesel to take advantage of its greater economy.

World wide sales of diesel engines at present some 5 million a year, are expected to double by the late 1980s.

\$200m diesel plant

International Harvester of the United Kingdom has signed an agreement with ENASA, Spain's leading industrial vehicle producer, for a joint venture to set up a \$200m (£83.5m) diesel engine plant in Spain with an annual capacity of 80,000 units.

NEB finance director

Mr Tony Blackett has been appointed finance director of the National Enterprise Board. He was previously deputy to Mr Martin Brookman, who has joined the Wellcome Foundation as finance director.

Serck holding sold

Rockwell International, which called off a £33m takeover bid for the United Kingdom Serck group last April after American Justice Department intervention, has agreed to sell its 29.7 per cent holding in Serck within four years. It has also undertaken not to buy into Serck or any other fabricated plug valve maker for 10 years.

Yen stronger

The Japanese yen continued its steady climb against all major currencies as foreign currency markets, rising again, the dollar from 210.90 to 208.50 after touching 207.50. Heavy intervention by the Japanese central bank failed to halt the advance.

Petrol usage down

Consumption of petroleum products in the United Kingdom during the three months from June to August was 16.7 per cent lower than the corresponding period last year. North Sea output continued to run ahead of consumption at 13.7 million tonnes.

Toyota investment

Toyota plans to start an 81,000m yen (£156.5m) plant construction and expansion programme at its Kinsho factory in central Japan for the production of car transmissions and related parts.

Wall Street up

The Dow Jones Industrial average closed 7.00 points up at 939.42. The S against the SDR was 1315.19. The £ was 0.550655.

Hadfields steel plants may close in Sheffield with loss of 3,000 jobs

By Ronald Kershaw
Northern Industrial Correspondent

Hadfields, one of Sheffield's most prominent steelmakers, is seriously considering closure with the loss of nearly 3,000 jobs unless it gets prompt and substantial Government aid. A special committee representing both public and private steelmakers is to issue a report soon calling for state aid to avert the collapse of the Sheffield steel industry.

Mr Derek Norton, chairman of Hadfields' London subsidiary, said last night that the whole of the private steel industry was in grave conditions.

He said: "We feel we are being out-priced by foreign steel with the public sector. Massive amounts of cash are being pumped into the public sector and yet we are not considered for a penny. At the same time we are expected to compete in the same market. It is quite wrong."

Workers at Hadfields were on short-time in July because of falling orders and the company's two Sheffield plants are working only alternately.

Mr Norton said: "We have now reached the position where something desperately needs to be done to safeguard the survival of the steel industry."

Also this summer, the south Yorkshire headquarters of the British Steel Corporation announced plans for one week pause in working at its major plants. The depressed state of the motor industry was a big factor and steel orders in south Yorkshire were 50 per cent lower than a year earlier.

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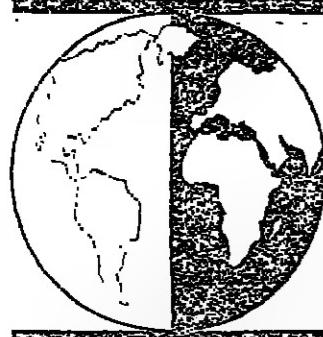
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He said: "We feel we are being out-priced by foreign steel with the public sector. Massive amounts of cash are being pumped into the public sector and yet we are not considered for a penny. At the same time we are expected to compete in the same market. It is quite wrong."

Discussions seem likely to focus on the extent to which the medium-term strategy will have to be modified after the unexpectedly large growth in

Mr. Derek Norton: Call for government intervention.



China TV parts deal with Japan

China has signed contracts with five Japanese companies to import production line equipment for colour televisions, which will increase output by several hundred thousand sets a year.

The New China News Agency said the Sanghai Number One television factory would import an assembly line from Hitachi with an annual capacity of 200,000 colour sets.

The Peking television factory and the Tianjin radio factory will import assembly line equipment from the Matsushita Electrical Industries Company of Japan, with a combined output of 300,000 sets a year. The other contracts were for equipment for making television parts.

Japan's reserves up

Japan's foreign reserves of gold, convertible foreign currencies and special drawing rights rose by \$7.2m in September to \$23,788m (£830m) in the past year.

Record coffee exports

Colombia's coffee exports reached a record 11.6 million sacks, worth \$2.100m (£830m) in the past year.

Welcome for steel plan

Nippon Steel and the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry have welcomed President Carter's plan to reinstate the trigger price mechanism and revitalise the faltering United States steel industry.

EEC price rise

Consumer prices in the EEC rose 0.6 per cent in August and 1.35 per cent in a year.

W German trade

West Germany's wholesale trade turnover in August was about DM49,000m (£about £11,200m).

Index drop

Belgium's adjusted industrial production index for July dropped 38.2 per cent from June, and was 2.2 per cent lower than in July last year. The July production index fell to 76.9 from 124.5 in June.

Mitchell Cotts

International Engineering, Transportation and Trading
UNAUDITED RESULTS 1979/1980
HIGHLIGHTS

- Profits up by 26%
- Engineering now 63%, Transportation 27% and Trading 10%
- A year of progress in South Africa
- U.K. profits increased
- Interest costs held

	Years ended 30th June	
	1980	1979
	£'000	£'000
Profit before Interest and Taxation	12,559	11,071
Interest	4,318	4,400
Profit after Interest	8,241	6,671
Share of profits of associated companies	775	486
Profit before Taxation	9,016	7,157
Taxation	3,961	3,122
Profit after Taxation	5,055	4,035
Minority Interests	1,538	719
Profit before Extraordinary Items	3,517	3,316
Earnings per Share (net basis)	6.57p	6.24p
Extraordinary Items	(223)	2.494
Net Attributable Profit	3,294	5,810

ANALYSIS BY ACTIVITY

	1980					
Turnover	Profit	Turnover	Profit			
£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s			
Engineering	115,049	7,965	63	86,503	4,933	49
Transportation	119,529	3,389	27	109,617	2,985	30
Trading	60,281	1,265	10	69,959	2,180	21
	294,859	12,619	100	266,079	10,098	100
Group Expenses & Interest	(3,603)			(2,941)		
	9,016			7,157		

ANALYSIS BY TERRITORY

United Kingdom	93,217	3,281	26	93,367	3,029	30
Southern Africa	151,869	8,072	64	116,920	4,393	43
East and Central Africa	18,052	1,421	11	20,570	2,412	24
Belgium, Americas, Australasia	31,721	(155)	(1)	35,222	264	3
	294,859	12,619	100	266,079	10,098	100
Group Expenses & Interest	(3,603)			(2,941)		
	9,016			7,157		

Mitchell Cotts Group Limited
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The Report and Accounts will be posted to shareholders on 10th November 1980.

Developing nations' oil supplies worst affected because of low stocks

Feeling the effects of Gulf war

Spain, France, Brazil and India seem to be the countries worst affected by the loss of the 3.5 million barrels a day of oil exports from war-torn Iran and Iraq. The latter is an important supplier to developing countries offering terms to buy their exports on credit which effectively reduced the price of its oil.

Iraq and Iran were a crucial source of oil to India. They sent India more than 200,000 barrels a day. The Indian Government is reported to be looking for alternative supplies but it has always been able to rely on the Soviet Union to make up shortfalls.

Supplies from Iran or Iraq to developing countries may be small in comparison with imports into western countries, but are significant to the Third World. Developing nations' stocks may be low and they can ill afford aggressive bids on spot markets.

Brazil has signed contracts with five Japanese companies to import production line equipment for colour televisions, which will increase output by several hundred thousand sets a year.

The New China News Agency said the Sanghai Number One television factory would import an assembly line from Hitachi with an annual capacity of 200,000 colour sets.

The Peking television factory and the Tianjin radio factory will import assembly line equipment from the Matsushita Electrical Industries Company of Japan, with a combined output of 300,000 sets a year. The other contracts were for equipment for making television parts.

Although Iraq supplies 15 per cent of

bought all the 850,000 barrels a day which Brazil usually imports, renews most of it but sells less than half.

Brazil would particularly like to buy more from Venezuela which sells 50,000 barrels a day and Mexico, which sells 20,000 barrels daily. But neither has much spare.

Dr Humberto Calderon Berti, the Venezuelan oil minister, said his country would not increase its production to enlarge the inventories of the industrialised nations. But he suggested that Venezuela may eventually increase its production to sell oil to certain countries whose supplies were particularly affected.

The Soviet Union, which has a large trade deficit with Brazil, has offered to supply 20,000 barrels a day at \$33 a barrel. Brazil could also increase imports from Nigeria, Libya, Angola and Algeria, although their oil is more expensive than

Brazil has become so dependent on Iraq because it pays slightly less (\$28) than the standard Opec price.

But Brazil's imports of 110 million barrels will last for four or five months and allow some breathing space.

Although Iraq supplies 15 per cent of

Spain's petroleum and Iran 7 per cent, Madrid officials are unversed. They are not planning to buy oil on the spot market, according to Senator Antonio Garcia Diaz, minister for the economy and commerce.

He said that Spain had stocks on hand for 140 days and "would look toward countries like Mexico to increase their deliveries".

Iraq is the second largest supplier of oil to France, after Saudi Arabia, providing 23.43 per cent of the country's needs.

But French oil stocks are so high and diverse that the government is not worried about this mountain hereafter.

He merely repeats the Brussels theory that the creation of the mountain is beneficial to farmers and that its dispersal is also a blessing to consumers.

France is paying over world price levels in almost all food.

The alternative to the CAP is a free market in food and it has many advantages—a fair balance between farmer and consumer, lower food prices, no bureaucracy, no handouts to the poor, no豪華

privileges, no corruption and no frauds. Why is there such fear and distrust of freedom and simplicity and such reliance on crutches and complexities?

Yours faithfully,

MALCOLM HILL,
2a Pembroke Road,
London W8 5EG.
September 26.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Meaning of Britain's grain mountain

From Mr Malcolm Hill

Sir, Hugh Clayton informs us in an interesting article (September 25) that British grain mountain has come down in size, but he does not tell us whether there should be a further fall or indeed what will happen to this mountain hereafter.

He merely repeats the Brussels theory that the creation of the mountain is beneficial to farmers and that its dispersal is also a blessing to consumers.

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Cartel by the banks

From Mr R. J. Burt

Sir, it is a measure of clearing banks' manipulative expertise that public concern over this all-powerful cartel where it exists at usually confined to irregularities such as bank runs and lunch queues.

Since the subject is us discussed piecemeal it makes of interest at this moment to take a broader perspective on the consequences of this ordinary monopoly.

The banks have just caught a red herring by Monopolies Commission in investigating credit card cartels in the markets and making massive profits. It is significant that the banks can and do so diligently against the p

interest. The Government, which is self responsible for having fostered these over-mighty subjects, is now bearing consequences. This week criticised the banks for verting national policy by taking away the right of the EEC to control the money supply.

Meanwhile, the swiftness of the clearing banks' representation nothing less than massive and unearched tracts of earnings from industry commerce to the central of

the week.

While the obfuscating of the clearing banks over every section of business over every section of business known. The public should be alerted to the probable contribution of these factors in nexus with the rigidity of prevalent throughout business in country.

R. J. BYART,
6 Summerhouse Road,

London N16.

Petrol pricing

From Mr A. A. Painter

Sir, The announcement that the Director General of Fair Trading is to refer the matter of car spares to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission should be welcomed by the manufacturer, retailer and motorist alike. The uncertainty created by the final report of the Prices Commission was unfortunate and misleading.

BP Chemicals has started producing synthetic rubber from the first of two new plants built as part of a £45m investment at its Barry works in South Glamorgan.

But the company said yesterday that unfair competition from American producers threatened its profitability.

Energy advantages enabled them to undercut United Kingdom prices by up to 30 per cent.

Mr Don Brown, business manager, said that American prices for nitrile rubbers—an oil resistant product used in the car and engineering industries

were unrealistically low, although it was difficult to prove that the product was being dumped in Europe.

This year imports from the United States have doubled over a period in which demand has effectively halved.

BP, which announced half-year losses on its chemicals operations of £24m recently, said that it was reducing its workforce at Barry by 400. The company is optimistic that the modernisation will allow numbers to be stabilized at about 1,400.

Although the site is working at only half capacity, the recent investments should enable Barry to take advantage of any upturn in demand.

Next year a £40m PVC plant will come on stream, adding about 80,000 tonnes a year to present capacity. Meanwhile, the £5m plant has started production of nitrile rubber.

BP Chemicals is the sole United Kingdom producer of nitrile rubbers. But it still sells only 10 per cent of the domestic market, worth about £13m a year, and even this share has come under pressure from American producers.

The company is the leading employer in the Barry area. On nearby sites Dow Corning is engaged on a £135m silicone investment and Dow Chemicals is building a new product line. Together the three companies employ around 2,500 people.

Meanwhile a warning that large and important sections of the community fail to recognize the value to the United Kingdom of its big international market of 900,000 units a year.

Onron already has around 20 per cent of the British market through sales under labels others than its own, but Onron-labelled machines themselves are expected to achieve a 10 per cent market penetration within three years.

Buying Onron-label machines could mean savings of around 20 per cent, said Mr Peter Russ, managing director of the operation in the United Kingdom.

If the company achieves the growth at which it is aiming, it could have as big a market share as

